Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels – Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in my installation?

The installer will supply and install solar PV panels, an inverter, mounting brackets, and all wiring into your electrical system. All connections will be made and certified, the installation will be registered with the relevant governing bodies.

What is the benefit to having solar PV?

Solar PV can have a positive impact on your home by reducing your electricity bills and cutting your carbon footprint.

How does Solar PV work?

Solar systems are made up of several panels which consist of photovoltaic cells designed to absorb energy from sunlight. Panels are still capable of absorbing energy from day light and will generate electricity on a cloudy day, nevertheless, the brighter the day the more energy produced.

Systems generate direct current (DC) energy and then convert it to usable alternating current (AC) energy with the help of inverter technology. AC energy then flows through your property's electrical panel and is distributed accordingly.

Is my home suitable for Solar PV panels?

A south facing roof with a 35° pitch is ideal for solar PV, East or West facing roofs can still absorb energy and have an impact on your electricity cost. A qualified surveyor will advise you of different arrays and scenarios to suit your home.

Other things to consider:

- Positioning of trees for shading around your home
- Close-by tall buildings
- Any roof area already in use e.g. Velux windows

Do I need to change my tariff?

Initially you may want to assess how well the panels meet your home's electricity needs. If the panels do not cover all your demand and you are still topping up from the grid or if you are generating more than your home requires and you can supply back the grid, it would be best to talk to your current supplier and find the best tariff for your circumstances.

What happens next

A survey of your property will be carried out to assess if your home is suitable for solar PV and determine an installation plan to ensure compliance with building and health & safety regulations.

When everything is in place a mutually agreed installation date will be arranged.

Scaffolding will be erected to provide installers access to the roof area, they will also require access to your loft space to run cabling. Installation time is around 3 days from start to finish, however this is weather dependant, adverse weather can prolong the install.

Once the install is complete and you are completely satisfied, the installer will request a signature once the work is complete. The Installer will register your new solar PV with the appropriate governing bodies and initiate your warranties.

Aftercare

Solar PV comes with a 12 month workmanship warranty and the inverter and panels both come with a 10 year manufacturer's warranty.

There are no annual servicing costs however, it is advisable to keep an eye on the panels to ensure they do not get too dirty and reduce the amount of energy they generate.

Installer contact details:

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