



FAQ's

SOLAR

A FULL SOLAR SOLUTION FOR IN, ON, PITCHED, FLAT & INDUSTRIAL ROOFING

To help support you answering questions that may be raised by your customer, we have put together this FAQ document that should hopefully cover most questions, but please feel free to contact solar@sigroofing.co.uk if you need any further details.

What is solar?

Solar electricity is electricity that's generated using solar photovoltaic (PV) technology. Solar PV panels are used to capture the sun's free and clean renewable energy, turning it into electricity.

What are the benefits of solar?

Well there's the reductions your customers will make on their fuel bills for starters, but also by including solar in your next project it could help put you ahead of your competitors.

Here's some simple benefits to talk through with your customers next time you quote for a job and potentially suggest adding a solar system.

- **Reduced electricity bills:** a 2.8 kWp system should be able to generate around 35% of an average household's annual electricity needs. This is an estimation and will vary on power generation and usage
- **Lower carbon emissions:** solar panels don't produce any carbon emissions, which will help to greatly reduce the impact of running a property has on the environment
- **No running costs:** once installed, you won't have to worry about any operating costs as they create free renewable energy
- **Low maintenance:** other than making sure the panels are getting enough light (make sure they're not being obstructed) there's not a lot else to worry about
- **Charge an electric car for free:** reduce your fuelling costs if you have an electric vehicle, if a sufficient sized array is installed

INSTALLER FAQ'S

How long will it take to specify my project & get me a quote?

A Solar expert will be in touch within 24 hours of you submitting an enquiry, and we aim to have a costed specification back with you within 48 hours of submitting your initial enquiry through www.sigroofing.co.uk/solar.

How long will I have to wait for the panels/ system to arrive?

Your full system will be delivered in one drop and lead times will be confirmed once your order is placed, if you don't need it for a little while that's no problem, we can delay the delivery to suit your install schedule.

I've never fitted solar before, what equipment is required?

Solar installation is system of PV Panels, connected to invertors for converting the DC electricity to AC as well as to putting it at the right voltage and frequency for connecting it to the customers existing electric circuit. SIG Roofing can supply all the basic system elements, as well as any required add ons such as batteries or EV Chargers.

Can I install the panels and connect to the grid myself?

Although you can fit the panels, we would recommend becoming a certified MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) installer. Then once the panels have been fitted and are ready to be connected to the grid, you will need a qualified electrician to connect the panels to the grid. Don't know any local electricians? No problem we can help partner you with a local electrician where needed.

How much energy will be produced from the panels and at what output?

We can supply a range of power output panels, depending on what your project needs. All our panels use the latest technology at the time of purchase.

Energy produced from the panels is subject to several factors, 1000m² will generate between 150,000 and 200,000 kWh depending on the location of the system, its orientation, and inclination. To put it into perspective typical 3-bed house consumes 4,500kWh/year and a small business between 15,000 and 25,000kWh

Does the homeowner need planning permission?

No, most of the time solar panels are exempt from planning permission requirements, however there may be certain times where it will be needed. Our team can help advise during the specification stage.

Will you come and help me?

We will support you through the specification journey and if you need further support around installation or connection our team are on hand to help.

What accreditation will the panels have?

The PV systems we supply when installed by a certified MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) installer comply with the British Standards, BRE and IEE codes.



GENERAL FAQ'S

Could you really charge an electric car for free using solar energy?

If you have an electric car, or are considering one, being able to charge it for free, reducing your fuel costs and impact on the planet, is possibly the biggest benefit on offer. Planning to power a property and electric car with solar energy will require a larger solar PV system, so it's worth mentioning this in the planning stages.

Do I need a South-facing roof for solar panels?

Solar panels work well on any roof facing South, SE or SW. Although solar panels will perform better and produce more electricity if they are South facing, they will still perform around 86% (compared to South facing) either facing due East or West.

How much roof space do I need for solar panels?

Solar panels can be fitted to your roof or on your land. With the choice of systems we have a PV system can be fitted to any roof size or type.

Is constant sunshine needed for solar panels to work?

No, solar panels work in all daylight conditions and work at their optimum at 10°C. In fact, if it gets too hot they start to become increasingly inefficient.

Will they work on a cloudy day?

Solar panels still work well, albeit not at full capacity, on a cloudy day.

Solar panels in hot sunny countries are bound to gather more energy, but don't be fooled into thinking that they won't work well in the UK. They don't need constant direct sunlight to work and can still generate electricity when the weather is cloudy.

How do I compare different makes of solar panels?

Your panel choice will usually combine several factors including aesthetics, value for money, performance, track record and guarantees. Your SIG Roofing team and suppliers know the market and can advise you on the panels that will suit your needs.

What guarantees will my solar panels come with?

Solar panels will come with a manufacturer guarantee of the panels performance. Different manufacturers offer different guarantees. Your SIG solar team and suppliers can advise you on the panels that will suit your needs.

How long will my solar panels last for?

Solar PV systems have no moving parts apart from the inverter and as such have very long life spans. You should expect the panels to last for at least 25 years, a drop in performance is expected over this time but only a few %.

How long does it take to install solar panels?

Most domestic solar panel installations take no more than a day with minimum disruption. Typically, the scaffolding will be erected a couple of days before the solar PV installation team arrive. The installers will then mount the panels on the roof and install the inverter, finally carrying out the internal wiring.

Do solar panels need cleaning?

Solar panels are generally self-cleaning if positioned at an angle of over 15 degrees. However it is advised to visually inspect them annually and rinse if necessary. Most window-cleaning companies have a reach-and-wash system and should be able to clean your panels.

How do solar panels connect to the electrical supply in my home?

The electricity produced by solar panels is converted from DC (direct current) by the inverter to AC (alternating current), which all properties are run on. The electricity is then taken from the inverter via an AC cable to the distribution board, where it is used to power the circuits in the property.

With solar panels can I come off grid?

Solar PV panels alone will not give electricity 24 hours a day as they only produce electricity in daylight hours. You would need alternative energy sources or a battery system as well as Solar PV panels to be able to come off grid.

Will solar panels work when there is a power cut?

If there is a power cut your inverter will switch off, which stops any generation from your solar panels entering the property. This is a safety feature to protect workers who may be repairing the grid.

Do I need to change my electricity meter to an export meter if I have solar panels?

If you want to be paid for any the excess electricity you generate you will need to have a smart meter, most electricity suppliers are installing them free of charge for their customers if you don't already have one.

How many solar panels will my home need?

The more solar panels that are installed, the more energy they'll be able to generate. The number of solar panels you'll need will depend on your energy usage and the size of your property. The number required will be calculated from your energy bills and available space to install them.

How does solar benefit the environment?

It's a great renewable source of energy, unlike fuels such as coal which has a finite supply, meaning it will eventually run out. Plus solar energy is environmentally friendly because it doesn't generate green house gases. Renewable energy technologies will help you reduce your carbon footprint, meaning you'll personally be doing your bit for the environment.

What is a solar battery?

More often than not, solar panels are generating more energy that can be used around the home at any one time. All the excess energy is then sent to the electricity grid, meaning that you're losing out on energy being generated by your panels. By including a solar battery as part of your solar PV system, you can hold onto the unused energy to use during the night when your solar panels aren't generating any energy.

How much do solar panels cost?

The cost of a solar panel system will vary depending on several factors, such as how many panels are needed, so it's tough to give an exact price but on the whole, solar panels are around 70% cheaper than they were in 2010.

How much does the installation of solar panels cost?

In addition to the price of the solar panels, you'll need to consider the installation too. The price of the installation will vary from installer to installer, so it's a good idea to compare multiple quotes, which will give you the greatest chance of getting the best possible deal.

By taking a few minutes to complete our online form, we will match your needs with installers in your area who will each be in touch to provide a free quote. You'll get up to 3 free no-obligation quotes, which you can then compare to find the best installer for your solar PV installation.

Which manufacturer is making the best solar panels?

As the solar market has grown, the number of solar manufacturers has increased. This gives you great variety and choice but can also make your decision-making that bit harder. We sell solar panels from our tile suppliers of Marley / BMI / Wienerberger as an In Roof pitched solution but we also have OEM suppliers for In and On Roof and for flat and industrial roofs.

What's the difference between solar PV and solar thermal?

Solar PV panels are used to generate electricity, whereas solar thermal - also known as a solar hot water system - is used to provide domestic hot water around the home.

What are bifacial solar panels?

Bifacial solar panels not only generate energy from the side facing the light but the back too, which makes them able to deliver your home with more energy than a conventional solar panel. These are most beneficial on flat or industrial roofs with a light coloured surface.

Is it worth investing in solar?

There's no doubt about it; solar PV panels are the most popular type of renewable energy with homeowners. Over 500,000 UK homes already have solar PV panels and the numbers are continuing to grow. Solar panel costs have dropped dramatically, so there's really never been a better time to invest. The benefits too are impossible to ignore: lower energy bills, a reduction in carbon emissions and potentially increase the value of your home.



KEY CONTACT:

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SCAN ME...

to view the online solar enquiry form