

# ENERGY ADVICE TEAM SOLAR BUYER'S CHECKLIST

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# WHY THIS GUIDE MATTERS

Going solar is one of the biggest financial decisions a homeowner can make. With so many installers, tariffs, and technology options available, it can be difficult to know where to start — or who to trust.

This Solar Buyer's Checklist has been created by Energy Advice Team to help UK homeowners like you cut through the noise, ask the right questions, and feel confident every step of the way.

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- 01 Avoid Costly Mistakes**

Many homeowners overpay or choose the wrong system for their property. This guide helps you identify red flags, understand pricing, and avoid common pitfalls before you sign anything.
- 02 Understand Your Options**

From panel types and battery storage to feed-in arrangements and finance options, we break down everything you need to know in plain English — no jargon, no pressure.
- 03 Make Confident Decisions**

Armed with the right knowledge, you'll be able to compare quotes fairly, ask installers the questions that matter, and choose a solution that genuinely works for your home and budget.



# YOUR SOLAR JOURNEY

01

## Research

Understand your energy usage, roof suitability, and available solar technologies. Learn about feed-in tariffs, battery storage, and typical UK payback periods before committing.

02

## Site Assessment

A qualified surveyor assesses your roof orientation, pitch, shading, and structural integrity. This step ensures your property is genuinely suitable for solar panel installation.

03

## Get Quotes

Request detailed written quotes from at least three MCS-certified installers. Ensure each quote specifies panel brand, system size, expected output, and full installation costs.

04

## Compare Options

Compare quotes on value, not just price. Review warranties, after-sales support, installer credentials, and projected energy savings to identify the right fit for your home.

05

## Contract Review

Read your contract carefully before signing. Check cooling-off periods, payment terms, warranty conditions, and what happens if panels underperform. Seek independent advice if unsure.

06

## Installation

Your MCS-certified installer fits the panels, inverter, and any battery storage. After completion, your system is registered and you can begin generating clean, cost-saving energy.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR INSTALLER

Choosing the right solar installer is just as important as choosing the right panels. Before you sign any contract, make sure you ask these essential questions. A reputable installer will welcome your questions and provide clear, confident answers.

If any installer is reluctant to answer, that's a red flag worth noting.

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- 01 MCS Certification & Warranties**

Is your company MCS-certified? MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) accreditation is required to qualify for the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG). Ask about product warranties on panels (typically 25 years) and workmanship guarantees.
  - 02 Panel & Inverter Specifications**

What brand and model of panels and inverter will be installed? Ask for the efficiency rating, degradation rate, and whether the inverter is string or microinverter. Quality components make a significant difference to long-term performance and reliability.
  - 04 Projected Savings & Payback Period**

Can you provide a written estimate of projected annual savings and estimated payback period? A trustworthy installer will base this on your actual energy usage, roof orientation, and local irradiance data — not generic figures.



# BENEFITS OF SOLAR

Installing solar panels can transform the way your home uses energy. From cutting household bills to reducing your environmental impact, the advantages are clear – and long-lasting. Here are three key benefits every homeowner should know.

Understanding these benefits will help you make a more informed decision when seeking personalised solar advice.

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- 01 Reduce Your Energy Bills**

Solar panels generate free electricity from sunlight, significantly reducing your reliance on the National Grid. Many UK homeowners see savings of hundreds of pounds per year on their energy bills.
- 02 Lower Your Carbon Footprint**

Solar energy is clean and renewable. By generating your own green electricity, you can cut your home's carbon emissions considerably – a meaningful step towards a more sustainable future.
- 03 Increase Your Property Value**

Homes with solar installations are increasingly attractive to buyers. Research shows that solar panels can add value to your property, making them a smart long-term investment as well as an energy solution.



# ENERGY ADVICE TEAM

Independent. Honest. On Your Side.

## RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR

Not every solar installer operates with your best interests in mind. Before signing anything, it is important to know the warning signs that suggest a company may not be reputable. Protecting yourself starts with knowing what to look out for. If something feels wrong during the sales process, trust your instincts and seek independent advice before proceeding.

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- 01 High-Pressure Sales Tactics**

Be wary of installers who push you to sign on the same day, claim the offer expires immediately, or discourage you from seeking other quotes. A trustworthy company will always give you time to consider your options.
  - 02 Unrealistic Savings Claims**

If projected savings or payback periods seem too good to be true, they probably are. Reputable installers base estimates on your actual usage, roof orientation, and shading – not inflated figures designed to close a sale.
  - 03 No Written Warranties**

Always insist on written warranties covering both the equipment and the installation workmanship. Verbal assurances offer no protection. MCS-certified installers are required to provide clear warranty documentation as standard.



# MEET YOUR TEAM

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## **James Hargreaves**

*Senior Solar Energy Adviser*

✉ [james@energyadviceteam.co.uk](mailto:james@energyadviceteam.co.uk)

James has over 12 years of experience in renewable energy consultancy, helping UK homeowners navigate solar options with confidence and clarity.

## **Sarah Mitchell**

*Home Energy Consultant*

✉ [sarah@energyadviceteam.co.uk](mailto:sarah@energyadviceteam.co.uk)

Sarah specialises in residential solar assessments, guiding homeowners through tariffs, grants, and the right questions to ask any installer.



## **David Okafor**

*Technical Solar Adviser*

✉ [david@energyadviceteam.co.uk](mailto:david@energyadviceteam.co.uk)

David brings deep technical knowledge of solar PV systems, battery storage, and MCS certification standards to help you make a fully informed decision.



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# GET YOUR FREE ADVICE



*We're here to help!*

Ready to go solar? Contact Energy Advice Team today for your free, no-obligation consultation. Our independent UK experts will help you find the right system, the right installer, and the right deal — tailored to your home.



[hello@energyadviceteam.co.uk](mailto:hello@energyadviceteam.co.uk)

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