

# HOME SOLAR PREPARATION CHECKLIST



If you are considering adding solar to your home, there are a range of considerations to be aware of before contacting a supplier. This handy checklist outlines 7 points to investigate in preparation.

## 1 IS SOLAR WORTH IT?

Adding solar panels to your home can result in savings on your power bills. You will begin using power from your solar panels during the day, rather than from the electricity grid and should see a reduction in your electricity bill overall. Depending on your electricity retailer, you may be eligible for a Feed-in-Tariff for the unused solar power you export back to the grid. Adding solar panels can also increase the value of your property. Read our [blog here](#) about other benefits to adding solar.

## 2 PAYMENT OPTIONS

Before committing to solar installation, it's a good idea to investigate the different payment models available to you. Depending on your finances, you can buy upfront, choose a pay now, buy later option or enter into a contract and pay off over a number of years.

## 3 PROPERTY CHECKS

The layout of your house on your land can influence whether solar panels are right for you. A house that has a great deal of foliage or shading may require trees to be removed or pruned. This means you may need to speak with your council to seek approval to remove trees before booking in a good arborist. If you do have shading, don't worry, as most installers can design the panels in a way to maximise sun.

## 4 WHERE'S YOUR METER?

Get to know where your meter is located in your residence as your installer will need to access it during a site visit. In most cases, when you get a solar system installed, your meter will be switched to what's known as a 'smart meter.'

## 5 WHAT MATERIAL IS YOUR ROOF?

Material used for your roofing may determine what type of equipment may be required for your installation and build. Having this information handy for when you chat to the installer will make it easier for them to decide the best option for you.

## 6 PANEL DIRECTION

Have a look at your roof and where the sun hits it. A good idea is to walk along your street and see if other houses have panels and note what side of the roof they are situated. Ultimately, panel direction on your roof will depend on the design of your property and the recommendation of positioning/angling from a credited installer. Your panels will almost always face North, East or West to optimise solar electrical generation.

## 7 ARE YOU IN A HERITAGE LISTED AREA?

If your building is heritage listed or you live in a heritage listed area, you may need to check whether there are restrictions on where you can add solar panels. This may mean you can only install them on the back of your property. A call to your local council about the specific property will enable you to determine whether you could adopt solar or not.

