

SOLAR POWER CHECKLIST

Solar power is fast becoming the best way to help households and businesses reduce their electricity bills and protect themselves against rising electricity prices. Purchasing and installing a solar power system is something that requires research and understanding..

Important questions to ask when purchasing a solar power system.

1. **Is the solar power system installer accredited?**

Ensure that your installer is accredited by the Clean Energy Council and has the support of a business that is well established and with good reputation.

2. **Do the solar panels being installed meet Australian standards?**

The key here is to ask for proof that the panels comply with AS477 and have a current Certificate of Suitability. This certification will be necessary for eligibility for solar credits. A "CE Mark" from Europe is not the same thing as meeting Australian Standards.

3. **What size system / how much capacity should you install?**

On average an Australian household uses about 7,500 kilowatt hours of electricity per year. Depending on what state in Australia you live in will depend how much energy you can produce, this is because of the difference in sunny days in each state. For example, to produce 5,200 kWh, which is about 70% of the average Australian household usage, you would need:

NSW: A three and a half (3.6) kilowatt system produces approx 5,200 kWh

QLD: A three and a half (3.4) kilowatt system produces approx 5,200 kWh

VIC: A three to four (3.8) kilowatt system produces approx 5,200 kWh

Please note, what you can install will be determined by price and roof space.

4. **What is the warranty of the product?**

Solar systems should have a minimum of 5 years warranty against product defect and a 25 year panel performance warranty.

5. **Does the company installing the solar power system provide local servicing and preventative maintenance?**

Many companies provide an installation service only. Ensure the company you choose can provide the installation and service of your solar panel system.

6. **How long has the company been around?**

It is a troubling fact that government rebates (or programs) often attract new companies whose sole purpose is to capitalize on the government program. Once the government changes their policies, these companies then move on or disappear, leaving customer in the lurch. The key to select a company that is committed to working with you year after year – one that will be there when you need them.

7. **Need more information?**

Contact Turf Queensland on (07) 3488 0917 or email info@qtpa.com.au

For government help visit www.climatechange.gov.au

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