

# Photovoltaic Solar Electricity/Power

## Buyers Guide



There is a myriad of suppliers out there, keen to connect into the new Australian consumer demand for solar electricity generation. This guide aims to provide assistance with the selection of Photovoltaic Solar Electricity systems for your premises;

1. Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Electricity comprises 4 main components - PV Cell panels, Inverter, wiring & Import/Export Meter.
2. For peace of mind & longevity, select a supplier that provides the **longest warranty** on all components & is expected to be around for many years to come. A 25-year warranty is typically provided for PV cell panels. 10 to 15+ year inverter warranties are now becoming commonplace.
3. Hailstones are the biggest risk to PV Solar power systems. Be sure to check with the supplier that the PV Cells are built to a high standard to resist hailstone impact. Also confirm that your home building insurance policy covers storm damage to PV Cells.
4. PV Solar panels systems are ideally positioned on a North-facing roof with clear view of the sun. Take a walk outside and see if your proposed location is unobstructed between the critical times of 10am-3pm. Some installers will try & talk you into positioning the PV cells on the East or West side of the roof, because it maybe is easier for them for installation. Choose the Northern orientation every time otherwise system performance is reduced by around 15% and 30% depending on angle & shading effects.
5. PV cells are most commonly installed on top of existing roofs. Ensure that the PV panels themselves can be easily removed should a future roof repair be required.
6. A new import/export smart meter may be installed for your solar system. Your electrical retailer may place you on a different tariff plan – beware, your new peak & off peak rates may be higher than before. Check to be sure.
7. It's very important to get the installer to prove & verify to you - correct export operation of the new PV Solar Electricity system BEFORE they leave your site for their next job.
8. For budgeting purposes installed pricing for typical PV Solar Power systems are as follows: 1.5kW(~range \$2,700-\$3,500); 3kW(~ range \$5,500 to \$6,000); 4kW(~ range \$7,000 to \$8,000). Pricing includes rebates deducted for eligible Australian customers.
9. If you do not know where to begin, then start then by contacting the following reputable PV Solar systems providers for quotations:- AGL Solar Energy (1300 076 188 ); Origin Energy (1300 791 468).



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### DID YOU KNOW

*For a typical 3kW solar system, if you do not clean your solar panels regularly & let them get dirty, then the resulting 30% performance reduction means .....*

***You loose the benefit of generating electricity for 1 dishwasher, 1 refrigerator and a washing machine for 1 whole year.***

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