



mandala
HOMES

Building Solar Ready

It can be exceptionally easy to prepare your home for solar use at a later stage during the construction phase. In order to ensure that the system you intend to install at a later date operates to its full potential, a few preparations early in the construction phase can save you considerable amounts of time and money. There are a range of systems that are available whether you are looking for solar water heating, solar space heating or solar photovoltaic.

There are three areas of your home that must be prepared in order to accept solar :

- The roof - where the solar hot water collectors will be installed;
- The utility room – where the controls and solar hot water tank will be installed;

- The pipe run or “chase” – where the pipes and/or electrical wires will be run between the roof and the utility room

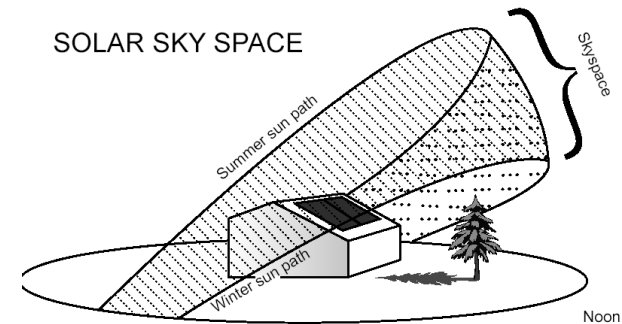
Hiring a qualified solar vendor is the most effective way to assess your situation and ensure that all of your solar requirements are being met. Purchasing a solar system should be done after analyzing your unique needs and formulating a personally tailored solution. Choosing certified components that meet these requirements and proper installation will keep the system running as expected.



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In addition to certain space requirements in designated spaces of your home, installing a solar system will require maximum sunshine to operate at peak performance. This requires all panels to be clear from shading year round, and must also take into consideration that trees can grow up to 19" (0.5m) per year. Furthermore, the position of any solar panel must take into consideration that the sun is far lower in winter than in summer and it is recommended that a solar sky space analysis is undertaken.



WHAT TO EXPECT

A number of factors are used to calculate the projected performance for your solar installation. Ensure each quote you obtain documents the following:

- Estimates the total costs of the solar equipment, including regular system maintenance and service.
- Sets out the approximate life of the panels, aligning with the manufacturer's warranty period.
- Indicates the potentially significant costs for replacement parts such as inverters or tracker motors and control systems.
- Accurately assesses the solar irradiation and energy production, considering statistical highs and lows caused by fluctuations in weather.
- Also, consider including monitoring equipment with your system to track its performance and ensure its optimal performance.

