

Solar-ready buildings checklist

Your solar journey begins with ensuring your home can support a solar installation. Use this check list to make sure your building/home is solar ready.

If you meet most or all of these criteria, you may be a fit for going solar! If you'd like a SUN Staff member to personally review your home's eligibility, you may submit a request for a roof review [here](#).

Site and roof suitability

- Sun exposure:** Your roof should receive at least five hours of direct sunlight daily. Watch for shading from potential obstructions like trees, chimneys, neighboring buildings or structures, and features like vents and dormers.
- Roof orientation:** Buildings with a sloped roof that faces South, East, or West are best for solar. A flat roof will have more options for the orientation of the array.
- Roof condition/design:** The condition of your roof will also impact your ability to go solar.

Check for the following

- Approx. 20 years of remaining roof life. This ensures the panels will safely and reliably function as intended, making your investment worth it.
- Compatible roof materials like composition shingles, standing seam metals, tiles or synthetic membranes. Different roof types will affect the cost of installation.
- A flat or sloped roof type (both are generally acceptable), with a pitch range of 0 to 40 degrees. An installer can confirm the exact pitch of your roof, so don't worry if you're unsure about yours.
- At least 200 square feet of usable, unobstructed, contiguous space on your roof.

Installation feasibility

- Ensure your roof's structure can support 3-6 lbs/sq ft of additional load (*your installer can check for this*).
- No structural issues or visible damage including sagging, rot, broken tiles or shingles.
- Safe access. Ensure a ladder could reach your roof, and that there are sufficient clearances around the area.
- Unobstructed wall space. You'll need this for your inverter, production meter, and other panel accessories.
- No HOA, zoning, or historic district restrictions on installation.
- Check with your local AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) for additional codes or regulations that pertain to where you live.

Remember: *Mobile and pre-fabricated homes may have additional structural considerations, especially when pertaining to Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs)/Leases.*

Electrical system requirements

Have an installer check for these capacity and safety features

- Panel capacity:** Your electrical panel must have two open, adjacent breaker slots. If you don't have this, check for the feasibility of a subpanel option.
- Busbar rating requirements:** Have your installer check your system's Busbar rating. This is a safety code which determines whether a Busbar, a metal component which distributes power, has the capacity to support the size of the solar system you choose.
- Electric panel safety and other considerations:** Your electric panels' condition impacts its effectiveness, longevity, and your solar investment.

Electrical system requirements **continued**

Check for the following

- No rust, overheating/burn marks, damaged breakers, shattered components, or double-lugged neutrals.
- Legible labeling on the panel.
- Present and compliant grounding electrode system.
- Proper bonding jumpers and grounding bars.
- No code violations. Check your local laws and regulations, but it is best practice to ensure there are no exposed conductors, and no corrosion visible.

Homeowner readiness

For best results, ensure your home is fully prepared for a solar panel installation

- If you need to replace your roof, ensure you plan to do that before your solar install.
- Make sure you don't have any major conflicting home renovation projects underway such as structural repairs or electrical upgrades.

Best practice: Always let your installer know about any updates, repairs or renovations in your house before, during and after installation.



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Follow this link to submit a request for a roof review.