



The Northern Ireland Homeowner's Guide to **SOLAR**

Everything You Need to Know Before
Spending Thousands on Solar

By Phil Carrick | SolarInstallersNI.com

2026 EDITION

The Northern Ireland Homeowner's Guide to **Solar**

Everything you need to know before investing in solar panels
for your home — written in plain English.

By Phil Carrick

SolarInstallersNI.com

The Northern Ireland Homeowner's Guide to Solar (2026)

First published 2026
by SolarInstallersNI.com

Written by Phil Carrick

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This guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, legal, or
technical advice. Always consult a qualified professional before making decisions about
solar energy installations.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide at the
time of publication. However, regulations, incentives, and technology change frequently.

Cover design and layout by SolarInstallersNI.com

Welcome

Before We Begin...

If you're reading this guide, there's a good chance you're asking yourself one simple question...

"Would solar actually be worth it for my home?"

Perhaps you've noticed more solar panels appearing on houses around Northern Ireland.

Maybe your electricity bills have crept up over the last few years (who's haven't!).

Or perhaps you're simply curious to know whether solar could save you money in the long run.

Whatever brought you here...

I'm really glad you found this guide.

The truth is, buying solar is one of the biggest home improvements many of us will ever consider.

Yet most homeowners are expected to spend somewhere between £6,000 and £12,000 after reading a few websites and speaking to one or two salespeople.

Personally...

I don't think that's enough.

That's exactly why I created this guide.

Not to convince you to buy solar.

But to help you understand it.

There's certainly no shortage of websites talking about solar panels.

The problem is that many either overwhelm you with technical jargon or try to sell before they've taken the time to explain.

I wanted to create something different.

A guide written for homeowners, in plain English, that answers the questions I'd want answered if I were considering solar for my own home.

Inside these pages you'll discover:

☀️ Whether solar is really worth it in Northern Ireland.

💷 What a typical system actually costs.

⚡ How much you could realistically save.

🔋 Whether battery storage makes sense.

🏠 How to choose the right installer.

✅ The mistakes I'd avoid if I were starting again today.

You don't need to read everything in one sitting.

Dip in and out.

Bookmark pages.

Come back whenever you need to.

My only hope is that, by the time you reach the final page, you'll feel far more confident about making the decision that's right for your home.

Whether that's installing solar next month...

Next year...

Or deciding it simply isn't right for you.

If this guide helps you make a better decision, then it's done exactly what I hoped it would.

Now...

Pop the kettle on...

And let's get started.

Phil Carrick

Founder, SolarInstallersNI.com ☀️

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01

Is Solar Really Worth It in Northern Ireland?

Let's start with the question everyone asks first.



Reading time: 5 minutes

The Question Almost Everyone Asks First

If you've spoken to friends or neighbours about solar, you've probably heard completely different opinions.

One person tells you they've cut their electricity bills dramatically.

Another says it's too expensive.

Someone else tells you Northern Ireland doesn't get enough sunshine.

So who's right?

The honest answer is... they all might be.

Because whether solar is worth it depends far more on your home and how you use electricity than it does on the weather.

That's one of the biggest misconceptions surrounding solar panels.

Let's clear that up first.

"But We Don't Get Enough Sunshine..."

It's probably the biggest myth of them all.

The good news is that solar panels don't need blazing sunshine to generate electricity. They generate electricity from daylight, not just direct sunshine.

That means they continue producing power on bright, cloudy days too.

Will they produce less electricity in December than they do in June? Absolutely. But that's already taken into account when installers estimate annual generation.

Countries such as Germany have embraced solar for many years despite having a climate very similar to parts of the UK.

So while Northern Ireland might not enjoy Mediterranean weather, modern solar panels can still perform surprisingly well throughout the year.



So... Is Solar Worth It?

For many homeowners today... Yes. But not for everyone.

Whether solar makes financial sense usually comes down to a few key factors.

Your Electricity Usage

Generally speaking, the more electricity you use, the greater the potential savings.

A family working from home, charging an electric vehicle or using more electricity during the day may benefit differently from someone who is rarely at home.

Your Roof

The direction your roof faces... Its size... The amount of shading... These all influence how much electricity your panels can generate.

Don't worry if your roof isn't perfectly south-facing. Many east and west-facing roofs still perform very well.

Battery Storage

Adding a battery allows you to store some of the electricity your panels generate during the day and use it later when you're at home.

For some households this can significantly improve the value they get from their solar system.

We'll explore batteries in much more detail later in the guide.

Electricity Prices

One reason solar has become far more attractive over recent years is simple. Electricity has become much more expensive.

As prices have increased, the potential savings from generating your own electricity have become much more attractive too.

The Question I'd Ask Instead

Rather than asking... "Is solar worth it?" I'd encourage you to ask a slightly different question.

"Would solar be worth it for my home?"

That's a much better question.

Because every property is different. Every family uses electricity differently. Every roof is different. And every homeowner has different priorities.

My Advice

Don't make a decision based on your neighbour.

Don't make a decision based on a Facebook comment.

And don't make a decision because somebody tells you solar is either the best investment you'll ever make... or a complete waste of money.

Instead...

Look at your own home.

Your own electricity usage.

Your own goals.

That's exactly what this guide is designed to help you do.



If You're Curious...

Want to see how much sunlight your roof actually receives? Or get a quick estimate of what solar could save you?

These free tools can help you explore further:



[Solar Savings Calculator](#)

See a personalised savings estimate for your home.



[Free Solar Assessment](#)

Find out if your roof is suitable — no obligation, no pressure.

Phil's Take

I've spoken to hundreds of homeowners across Northern Ireland, and the number one reason people hesitate about solar is the weather.

But here's what I always say: if solar didn't work in cloudy climates, half of Europe wouldn't be using it.

The real question isn't whether we get enough sun. It's whether your home, your roof, and your electricity usage make solar a sensible investment. And that's exactly what we'll explore in the next few chapters.

Before You Move On...

If there's one thing I'd like you to remember from this chapter, it's this:

Northern Ireland has more than enough daylight for solar to work well on many homes.

The real question isn't whether solar works here.

It's whether it makes sense for your property.

That's exactly what we'll start exploring in the next chapter.

Next Chapter

Could Solar Work For Your Home?



Could Solar Work for Your Home?

Understanding what makes your home suitable.

 Reading time: 5 minutes

Could Solar Work For Your Home?

Every Home Is Different... And That's A Good Thing

One of the biggest myths about solar is that there's a simple answer. "There isn't."

Some people will tell you every home is perfect for solar. Others will tell you your roof has to face due south or there's no point.

The truth, as is often the case, sits somewhere in the middle.

Every property is different. Every family uses electricity differently. And every homeowner has different priorities.

That's why I'd never recommend making a decision based solely on what worked for your neighbour.

Instead... Let's look at the things that really matter.

1. Which Way Does Your Roof Face?

If you've spent any time researching solar, you've probably heard people say: "You need a south-facing roof."

That's certainly ideal. A south-facing roof usually receives the most sunlight throughout the day.

But here's the good news... It certainly isn't the only option.

Many homes in Northern Ireland with east or west-facing roofs still generate excellent amounts of electricity. Even some north-facing roofs may be suitable, depending on the property and the installation design.

So if your roof doesn't point due south... Don't rule solar out just yet.

2. Is Your Roof Shaded?

Shade is something installers always look for. Large trees. Tall neighbouring buildings. Chimneys. Dormer windows.

Anything that casts regular shadows across the roof can reduce electricity generation.

That doesn't automatically mean solar isn't suitable. It simply means your installer should assess how much shading is present and design a system accordingly.

3. Is Your Roof Big Enough?

Most modern homes have plenty of roof space for a typical domestic solar installation.

The exact number of panels depends on things such as:

-  Available roof space
-  Your electricity usage
-  Whether you're planning to install battery storage
-  Whether you own (or plan to own) an electric vehicle

Remember... The goal isn't necessarily to cover every inch of your roof. It's to install a system that's right for your needs.

4. When Do You Use Most Of Your Electricity?

This is one of the questions many homeowners never think to ask.

Do you spend most of the day at home? Or is everyone out at work or school until the evening?

Why does this matter?

Because solar panels generate electricity during daylight hours. If you're home during the day, you may use more of the electricity you're producing.

If you're away during the day, battery storage may become more attractive because it allows you to use that stored electricity later in the evening.

We'll look at batteries in much more detail in a later chapter.

5. Are You Planning Ahead?

One thing I always encourage homeowners to think about is the future. Perhaps you're planning to:

-  Buy an electric vehicle.
-  Install a heat pump.
-  Extend your home.
-  Spend more time working from home.

All of these could increase your electricity usage over the coming years.

A good installer won't just ask about today. They'll ask where you see your home in five or ten years' time.

It's About The Whole Picture

No single factor decides whether solar is right for your home. It's the combination of everything.

Your roof. Your electricity usage. Your future plans. Your budget. Your goals.

That's why every good installer carries out a proper assessment rather than simply recommending the same system to every homeowner.



If You're Curious...

Want to find out whether your roof could work for solar? These free tools give you a quick, no-obligation starting point:



[Free Solar Assessment](#)

Find out if your home is suitable — takes 2 minutes.



[Solar Savings Calculator](#)

Get a personalised estimate based on your electricity usage.



Phil's Take

One of the biggest mistakes I see is homeowners trying to decide whether solar is suitable by looking at someone else's house.

The better question is:

"How well would solar work for my home and the way my family uses electricity?"

That's the conversation worth having.

Before You Move On...

Hopefully you've realised something important.

You don't need the "perfect" house for solar to make sense.

Many homes across Northern Ireland are already benefiting from solar despite having different roof directions, different lifestyles and different electricity usage.

The only way to know what's right for your home is to look at the whole picture.

In the next chapter we'll look at the question that's usually next on everyone's mind...

Next Chapter →

How Much Could You Really Save?

Because while saving money isn't the only reason people choose solar...
It's certainly one of the biggest.

03

How Much Could You Really Save?

The real numbers behind solar savings.



Reading time: 6 minutes

The Question Everyone Really Wants Answered

"How much will I save?"

It's the question almost every homeowner asks first.

And it's a perfectly reasonable one.

After all, if you're going to invest in solar panels for your home, you'd like to know what kind of return you might see.

The honest answer?

It depends.

Not because anyone is trying to avoid the question...

But because every home uses electricity differently.

What Determines Your Savings?

There are several factors that influence how much a solar system could save you. Here are the main ones:

1. How Much Electricity You Use

The more electricity your home uses, the more potential there is for solar to reduce your bills.

2. When You Use It

Solar panels generate electricity during daylight hours.

If you're at home during the day and can use electricity while the sun is shining, you'll typically benefit more than someone who's out all day.

3. Battery Storage

A battery doesn't generate any extra electricity.

Instead...

It helps you use more of the electricity your panels have already produced.

For many households this can improve overall savings because you're relying less on electricity from the grid during the evening.

We'll look at batteries in much more detail in the next chapter.

4. Future Electricity Prices

None of us knows exactly what electricity prices will look like in five or ten years.

What we do know is that many homeowners are choosing solar because they want greater control over future energy costs rather than relying entirely on the grid.

For some people...

That peace of mind is just as valuable as the financial savings.



A Typical Example

Let’s imagine two homeowners.

Sarah

Monthly electricity bill: Around £90.

Works away from home during the day. No battery.

Sarah may still benefit from solar. But her savings could be quite different from someone who uses more electricity.

David

Monthly electricity bill: Around £250.

Works from home. Charges an electric vehicle. Installs battery storage.

David is likely to use much more of the electricity his panels generate, which could significantly improve the overall value of his system.

Neither home is “right.”

They’re simply different.

Should Savings Be The Only Reason?

Personally...

I don't think so.

Of course, saving money matters.

But many homeowners also tell me they like the idea of:

- ✓ Producing some of their own electricity.
- ✓ Depending less on the grid.
- ✓ Protecting themselves against rising electricity prices.
- ✓ Making improvements that may benefit their home over many years.

Those benefits are harder to measure.

But they're no less important.

Be Careful Of Big Savings Claims

You'll probably come across adverts claiming huge savings.

Some may even suggest solar will eliminate your electricity bills altogether.

Could that happen?

For some homeowners... Possibly.

For many others... Probably not.

The reality usually sits somewhere in the middle.

That's why I'd always encourage homeowners to treat dramatic claims with a healthy amount of scepticism.

Good installers should explain how they arrived at their figures rather than simply quoting the biggest number possible.

The Best Place To Start

One of the easiest ways to get a realistic idea of your own potential savings is to begin with an estimate based on your current electricity usage.

That's exactly why we created the [Solar Savings Calculator](#) on SolarInstallersNI.com.

It's not designed to make promises.

It's designed to give homeowners a sensible starting point before speaking to an installer.

Think of it as the beginning of the conversation rather than the final answer.



If You're Curious...

👤 Curious how much you could save?

Every home is different.

Our free Solar Savings Calculator gives you a personalised estimate based on your electricity usage and is a great place to begin your research.

⚡ [Try the Solar Savings Calculator](#) →



Phil's Take

If somebody asked me how much they could save with solar...

I'd probably disappoint them.

Because I wouldn't give them a number.

I'd ask them a few questions first.

How much electricity do you use?

When do you use it?

Are you planning to buy an electric vehicle?

Would battery storage suit your lifestyle?

Only then would I start talking about potential savings.

In my experience, homeowners make better decisions when they understand why they might save money, not just how much.

Before You Move On...

Hopefully one thing is now clear.

There's no single "average saving" that applies to every home.

The amount you could save depends on your property, your electricity usage and how you live.

That's why personalised advice is always more valuable than headline figures.

In the next chapter we'll explore one of the fastest-growing parts of home solar...

Next Chapter →

Are Solar Batteries Worth It?

Because for some homeowners they can make a significant difference...

And for others they may not be necessary at all.

04

Are Solar Batteries Worth It?

When storing energy makes sense for your home.

☕ Reading time: 5 minutes

One Of The Biggest Decisions You'll Make

A few years ago, most homeowners only had one major decision to make.
Should I install solar panels?

Today...
There's usually another question.
Should I add battery storage?

It's one of the questions I hear most often.
And, like so many things with solar, there isn't a single answer that suits everyone.

Let's start with the basics.

What Does A Solar Battery Actually Do?

Imagine your solar panels are producing electricity at lunchtime.
But...
Nobody is at home.

Without a battery...
Much of that unused electricity is usually exported back to the grid.

With a battery...
Some of that electricity can be stored and used later.

For example...
 During the evening.
 While watching television.
 While cooking dinner.
 Or when everyone's home using electricity.

Think of a battery as your home's own energy store.
It doesn't create electricity.
It simply helps you use more of the electricity you've already generated.

Why More Homeowners Are Choosing Batteries

Battery technology has improved enormously over the last few years.
As prices have become more competitive, more homeowners are choosing to install battery storage alongside their solar panels.

The reasons are often surprisingly simple.
They want to:

- ✔ Use more of their own electricity.
- ✔ Buy less electricity from the grid.
- ✔ Reduce evening electricity costs.
- ✔ Feel less dependent on rising energy prices.

For many people...
It's about having more control.

But Batteries Aren't Right For Everyone

This is important.

If somebody tells you...

"Everyone should have a battery."

I'd be a little cautious.

Because that's simply not true.

Whether a battery makes financial sense depends on things like:

 Your electricity usage.

 When you use electricity.

 The size of your solar system.

 The additional cost of the battery.

Some homeowners will see excellent value.

Others may decide that solar panels alone are enough for now.

And that's perfectly OK.

Can I Add A Battery Later?

Absolutely.

Many homeowners choose to install solar panels first and add battery storage later.

Sometimes that's because of their budget.

Sometimes it's because they want to understand their electricity usage before deciding.

If you think this might be your plan...

Mention it to your installer.

They can often design your system so adding a battery later is much easier.

Batteries And Electric Vehicles

If you're thinking about buying an electric vehicle in the next few years...

It's worth mentioning this during your assessment.

Why?

Because your future electricity usage could be very different from today's.

A good installer won't simply ask about your home now.

They'll ask where you see yourself in five or ten years.

Planning ahead often results in a better system.

It's Not Just About Money

Something I've noticed when speaking to homeowners is that batteries often provide something that's difficult to measure.

Confidence.

Knowing you've stored some of the electricity your home generated during the day can feel incredibly satisfying.

For some people...

That's almost as important as the financial savings.



If You're Curious...



Want to learn more about battery storage?

If you'd like to explore the pros and cons in more detail, we've put together a dedicated homeowner guide.



Read: [Are Solar Batteries Worth It?](#) →



Phil's Take

If somebody asked me...

"Should I buy a battery?"

My answer would probably disappoint them.

I'd say...

"Let's talk about how you use electricity first."

Because that's the real question.

I've seen homeowners who absolutely benefit from battery storage.

I've also seen situations where I'd probably recommend waiting.

There isn't a right answer.

Only the right answer for your home.

Before You Move On...

Hopefully one thing is clear.

Batteries aren't something you buy because everyone else is doing it.

They're something you consider because they fit the way you use electricity.

For many homeowners they're an excellent addition.

For others...

They may not be necessary.

The important thing is understanding the difference.

Next Chapter →

How To Choose The Right Solar Installer

Because even the best solar panels in the world...

Are only as good as the company installing them.

05

Choosing the Right Solar Installer

Why who you choose matters as much as what you buy.



Reading time: 5 minutes

It Could Be The Most Important Decision You Make

By now you've probably realised something.

Solar panels matter.

Inverters matter.

Battery storage matters.

But there's something that's arguably even more important.

The company who is installing everything.

A great installer can make the whole experience straightforward and enjoyable.

A poor installer can leave you with unnecessary stress, confusion and problems that could have been avoided.

That's why choosing the right installer deserves just as much attention as choosing the equipment itself.

Don't Just Choose The Cheapest Quote

This is probably the biggest piece of advice I can give you.

It's tempting to compare three quotations...

Look at the bottom line...

And choose the cheapest.

Sometimes...

That might work out perfectly.

Other times...

It can become an expensive mistake.

A lower quotation might mean:

Different equipment

Shorter warranties

Less aftercare

Fewer panels

A smaller battery

Or simply a different system design

Always compare what's included...

Not just the price.

Look Beyond The Sales Pitch

Every installer wants your business.

That's completely understandable.

But the best installers don't simply tell you how wonderful they are.

They take time to understand your home.

They ask questions.

They explain things clearly.

And they're happy to discuss both the advantages and the limitations of solar.

Personally...

I think that's a very good sign.

Ask Questions

A professional installer should welcome your questions.

If anything...

They'll probably enjoy answering them.

If somebody seems irritated because you're asking questions...

I'd see that as a warning sign.

After all...

You're making a significant investment.

You deserve clear answers.

Don't Feel Pressured

Good companies understand something.

Buying solar takes time.

You might want to compare quotations.

You might want to discuss things with your partner.

You might simply need a few days to think.

That's perfectly normal.

If somebody pushes you to make a decision today...

I'd politely slow the conversation down.

The right decision is usually more important than the quickest decision.

Local Knowledge Can Be Valuable

One advantage of choosing a local installer is that they'll often have experience installing systems on homes similar to yours.

They'll understand local conditions.

They may even be able to show you nearby installations.

That local experience can be incredibly valuable.



If You're Curious...

Ready to find out whether solar is right for your home?

If you'd like personalised guidance based on your property, electricity usage and future plans, our Free Solar Assessment is a great next step.



[Start My Free Solar Assessment](#) →



Phil's Take

If I could give every homeowner just one piece of advice, it would be this...

Choose the installer you trust the most.

Not necessarily the biggest.

Not necessarily the cheapest.

The one who listens.

The one who explains.

The one who makes you feel comfortable asking questions.

Solar panels may last 25 years or more.

The relationship with the company that installs them starts on day one.

Choose wisely.

Before You Move On...

By now you've probably realised that choosing an installer isn't about finding someone to fit solar panels.

It's about finding somebody you feel confident inviting to work on your home.

Take your time.

Ask questions.

Read reviews.

Compare quotations properly (are they easy to understand?).

A good installer won't mind.

In fact...

They'll probably encourage it.

Next Chapter →

The 7 Questions I'd Ask Before Buying Solar

06

The 7 Questions I'd Ask Before Buying Solar

The essential questions every homeowner should ask.



Reading time: 6 minutes



If I Were Sitting At Your Kitchen Table...

One of the questions I'm asked most often is:

"What should I ask the installer?"

It's a great question.

Not because there's a perfect answer...

But because good questions often tell you a lot about the company sitting across from you.

If I were thinking about buying solar for my own home, these are the seven questions I'd ask before making any decision.

1. Why Are You Recommending This System?

This is probably my favourite question.

Not...

"How many panels am I getting?"

Instead ask:

"Why have you recommended this system for my home?"

A good installer should be able to explain:

-  Why they've chosen that number of panels.
-  Why they've suggested a particular inverter.
-  Whether battery storage makes sense.
-  How they've estimated your savings.

If they can explain it clearly...

That's a very good sign.

2. What Warranties Are Included?

Solar panels are designed to last for many years.

That's why it's worth understanding exactly what's covered.

Ask about:

-  Panel warranty
-  Inverter warranty
-  Battery warranty (if applicable)
-  Installation workmanship warranty

Knowing what's protected today can save a lot of uncertainty later.

3. What Happens If Something Goes Wrong?

Nobody likes thinking about problems.

But it's one of the most important questions you can ask.

Find out:

-  Who do I contact?
-  How quickly do you normally respond?
-  Will you deal with warranty claims?

A company that provides clear aftercare often provides peace of mind too.



4. How Long Will The Installation Take?

Every property is different.
But your installer should be able to explain:

-  How many days the installation is likely to take.
-  Whether your electricity will need to be switched off temporarily.
-  What happens afterwards.

Clear expectations make the whole experience much less stressful.

5. Have You Installed Similar Systems Before?

There's nothing wrong with asking.
In fact...
Most experienced installers will probably enjoy showing you examples.

- You might ask:
-  Have you worked on similar properties?
 -  Do you have any local installations I can see?
 -  Can you share customer reviews?

Experience builds confidence.

6. Is There Anything You'd Do Differently If This Were Your Own Home?

This is a question I absolutely love.
Because it changes the conversation.

You're no longer asking somebody to sell you a system.
You're asking for their opinion.

Sometimes the answers are incredibly revealing.

7. Is There Anything I Haven't Asked That You Think I Should Know?

This might be the most powerful question of all.
It gives the installer an opportunity to tell you something you hadn't considered.

A great installer will often say something that helps you make a better decision.
That's exactly what you're looking for.

There Are No Silly Questions

Please remember this.
You're not expected to know everything about solar.
That's the installer's job.

Your job is simply to understand enough to feel confident about your decision.
Never feel embarrassed about asking questions.
Good installers genuinely welcome them.



If You're Curious...

Ready to ask these questions about your own home?

Our Free Solar Assessment helps match homeowners with trusted local installers who are happy to answer them.



[Start My Free Solar Assessment](#) →



Phil's Take

If an installer becomes uncomfortable because you're asking sensible questions...

I'd probably become uncomfortable too.

Good companies don't just install solar.

They educate.

They explain.

They want you to understand what you're buying.

Personally...

I think that's exactly how it should be.

Solar Installer Meeting Checklist

Have they surveyed your roof and shading?

Have they explained the equipment they recommend and why?

Have they provided a clear written quotation?

Have they explained the warranty terms?

Have they told you how long the installation will take?

Have they shown you examples of similar installations?

Have they answered all your questions without pressure?

Do you feel confident and comfortable with them?

Before You Move On...

You don't need to become a solar expert.

You simply need to ask good questions.

The answers will often tell you everything you need to know.

In the next chapter we'll look at the most common mistakes homeowners make and how to avoid them.

Next Chapter →

The Most Common Solar Mistakes (And How To Avoid Them)
Sometimes knowing what not to do can be just as valuable as knowing what to do.

07

The Most Common Solar Mistakes (And How to Avoid Them)

Learn from others so you don't have to learn the hard way.

☕ Reading time: 6 minutes

Most Mistakes Are Completely Avoidable

Buying solar can feel like a big decision.

That's perfectly normal.

For many homeowners, it's one of the largest investments they'll make in their home.

The good news?

Most of the mistakes people worry about can be avoided with a little preparation and by asking the right questions.

Here are the ones I'd be most aware of.

Mistake 1: Choosing On Price Alone

We've touched on this already, but it's worth repeating.

The cheapest quotation isn't always the best value.

Neither is the most expensive.

A good quotation should explain:

- What equipment is included.
- Why it's been recommended.
- What warranties are provided.
- What support you'll receive after installation.

Compare value...

Not just price.

Mistake 2: Feeling Pressured To Decide Quickly

Buying solar shouldn't feel rushed.

If someone tells you:

"You need to sign today."

Take a step back.

A reputable installer should give you time to:

- Discuss it with your family.
- Compare quotations.
- Read through the details.
- Ask more questions.

A confident company doesn't need to pressure people.

Mistake 3: Believing Every Claim You Read Online

The internet is full of opinions.

Some say solar is the best investment you'll ever make.

Others claim it's a complete waste of money.

The truth usually sits somewhere in between.

Be cautious of headlines designed to grab attention.

Look for balanced information instead.



Mistake 4: Not Thinking About The Future

Your life today may look very different in five years.
Perhaps you'll:

-  Buy an electric vehicle.
-  Install a heat pump.
-  Extend your home.
-  Spend more time working from home.

Mention these plans during your assessment.
They could influence the system that's recommended.

Mistake 5: Forgetting About Aftercare

Installation day is important.
But so are the years afterwards.

- Before choosing an installer, ask yourself:
- Will they still be there if I have a question?
 - Who do I contact if something needs attention?

Good aftercare often separates excellent companies from average ones.

Mistake 6: Comparing Systems That Aren't Actually Comparable

This catches many homeowners out.
One quotation might include:

- ✓ More panels.
- ✓ A larger battery.
- ✓ Better warranties.
- ✓ Different equipment.

At first glance...
It may look more expensive.
In reality...
It could represent much better long-term value.

Always compare like for like wherever possible.

Mistake 7: Thinking You Need To Know Everything

This might surprise you.
Some homeowners delay making any decision because they feel they haven't become "experts."

The truth is...
You don't need to.
You simply need enough understanding to ask sensible questions and recognise good advice when you hear it.

That's exactly why this guide exists.



If You're Curious...

Still researching?

Our free Solar Buyer's Guide and Solar Savings Calculator are designed to help you build confidence before making any decisions.



[Read This Before You Buy](#) →



[Try the Solar Savings Calculator](#) →



Phil's Take

The biggest mistake I see isn't choosing the wrong solar panels.

It isn't choosing the wrong battery.

It's homeowners feeling they have to make a decision before they feel ready.

Personally...

I'd rather someone waited another month...

Asked a few more questions...

Compared another quotation...

And then felt completely comfortable with their decision.

Solar should feel exciting.

Not stressful.

Before You Move On...

Take a moment to reflect.

By now you should understand:

- ✓ The most common mistakes homeowners make.
- ✓ Why rushing is rarely a good idea.
- ✓ Why comparing like for like matters.
- ✓ Why aftercare is worth considering.
- ✓ Why you don't need to be an expert.

If you can avoid these mistakes...

You're already ahead of most homeowners.

Next Chapter

What Happens During Installation?

From "Yes" To Switching Your Solar On

Chapter 8 →

08

What Happens During Installation?

A step-by-step walkthrough from quote to switch-on.

☕ Reading time: 5 minutes



From "Yes" To Switching Your Solar On

By this point you've hopefully got a much clearer understanding of whether solar could be right for your home.

You've compared quotations.

Asked plenty of questions.

Chosen an installer you trust.

So...

What actually happens next?

The good news is that, for most homeowners, the installation process is much more straightforward than they expect.

Let's walk through it together.

Step 1: Accepting Your Quotation

Once you've decided which installer you'd like to use, they'll usually confirm everything in writing.

This should include details such as:

- The equipment being installed.
- ✓ The agreed price.
- ✓ Estimated installation date.
- ✓ Warranties.
- ✓ Payment arrangements.

If there's anything you don't understand...

Ask.

It's much better to clarify everything now than after work has started.

Step 2: A Final Survey (Sometimes)

Depending on the installer and the complexity of your property, they may carry out a final survey before installation.

This helps confirm things such as:

- Roof measurements.
- Cable routes.
- Battery location.
- Consumer unit position.

It's simply another opportunity to make sure everything is planned correctly.

Step 3: Installation Day

This is the part many homeowners worry about most.

In reality...

Most installations are completed surprisingly quickly.

Many domestic systems are installed within two or three days, although larger or more complex projects may take longer.

During the installation you may notice:

- Scaffolding being erected.
- Panels being fitted to the roof.
- Electrical work inside your property.
- The inverter and, if applicable, battery being installed.

Your installer should explain what's happening throughout the process.

Step 4: Testing Everything

Before your installer leaves, they'll carry out a series of checks.

These are designed to make sure everything is operating safely and correctly.

They'll usually show you:

- How your system works.
- How to monitor performance.
- What the inverter does.
- What to do if you ever have a question.

Don't worry if you don't remember everything immediately.

Most installers are happy to answer questions afterwards too.

Step 5: Enjoying Your Solar System

This is usually the fun part. ☀️

Watching your system begin generating electricity for the first time can be surprisingly satisfying.

Many homeowners quickly find themselves checking their monitoring app to see how much electricity they're generating.

Don't worry...

Apparently that's completely normal! 😊

Looking After Your System

One of the questions homeowners often ask is:
"How much maintenance is involved?"

The good news is...
Generally speaking...
Very little.

Solar panels have no moving parts and are designed to operate for many years.
Most homeowners simply keep an eye on their monitoring app and occasionally check that nothing is obviously shading the panels.

If you ever notice something unusual, contact your installer for advice.

What If Something Goes Wrong?

Although problems are relatively uncommon, it's reassuring to know who to contact.
That's another reason why choosing the right installer matters so much.

Good companies don't disappear once the installation has finished.
They continue supporting their customers long afterwards.

Keep all of your documentation somewhere safe, including:

-  Warranties.
-  Installation paperwork.
-  User guides.
-  Contact details.

Hopefully you'll never need them.
But it's always useful to know where they are.



If You're Curious...

Thinking about taking the next step?
If you've reached this point in the guide, you probably have a much better understanding of what solar involves.
If you'd like personalised advice based on your own home, our Free Solar Assessment is a great place to start.

 [Start My Free Solar Assessment](#) →



Phil's Take

One of the nicest things I hear from homeowners is...
"I wish I'd done it sooner."

Not because everyone says solar is perfect.
But because many people tell me the whole process was much simpler than they'd imagined.

That's one of the reasons I wanted to write this guide.
Sometimes the fear of the unknown is much bigger than the reality.

Before You Move On...

Congratulations.
You've reached the final chapter.

- Hopefully you now understand:
- ✓ Whether solar could work for your home.
 - ✓ What influences savings.
 - ✓ Whether batteries might be worth considering.
 - ✓ How to choose a good installer.
 - ✓ Which questions to ask.
 - ✓ Which mistakes to avoid.

There's just one thing left.
How do you bring everything together and decide what's right for your home?
Let's finish where every good guide should...
With confidence.

Next Chapter

Your Next Step

Making The Right Decision For Your Home

Final Chapter →

FINAL CHAPTER

Your Next Step

Making The Right Decision For Your Home

☕ Reading time: 8 minutes

Making The Right Decision For Your Home

If you've reached this point...
Thank you.

I know life is busy, and there are plenty of other things you could have been doing instead of reading a guide about solar.
I genuinely hope it's been worth your time.

When I first started writing this guide, I kept asking myself one simple question:

"How would I explain solar to a close friend if they asked me over a cup of coffee?"

That's all this guide has ever tried to be.
Not a sales brochure.
Not a technical manual.
Just honest advice to help you make one of the biggest home improvement decisions you'll ever face.

So... Is Solar Worth It?

After everything you've read...
You probably already know my answer.

Sometimes... Yes.
Sometimes... No.
And sometimes... Not yet.

The right answer has never been the same for every homeowner.
It's always been the answer that's right for your home.

Whatever You Decide...

I hope you'll make your decision because you understand it.
Not because somebody rushed you.
Not because somebody made a promise that sounded too good to be true.
And certainly not because you felt pressured into signing something before you were ready.

Good decisions rarely happen in a hurry.

If You Decide To Go Ahead...

Fantastic.
I genuinely hope your solar system serves you well for many years to come.

I hope it saves you money.
I hope it gives you greater control over your electricity.
And I hope, every time you look at your roof, you smile knowing your home is producing some of its own energy. ☀️

If You Decide To Wait...

That's perfectly OK too.
Sometimes waiting is the right decision.

Perhaps you'd like to save a little more.
Perhaps you're planning home improvements first.
Or perhaps you'd simply like to continue researching.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with that.
Solar will still be there when you're ready. 🌱

One Last Piece Of Advice

Don't try to find the perfect system.
Try to find the right system.
Those two things aren't always the same.

The best decision is usually the one that suits your home...
Your family...
Your lifestyle...
And your future.

Why I Created SolarInstallersNI.com

People sometimes ask why I built this website.
The answer is actually very simple.

I wanted Northern Ireland homeowners to have somewhere they could visit before speaking to an installer.
A place where they could learn.
Ask questions.
Understand the jargon.
And make informed decisions.

Whether you eventually install solar or not...
If this guide has helped you feel more confident than you did when you first opened it...
Then SolarInstallersNI has already achieved its purpose. 💛



If You're Ready...

If you've reached the point where you'd like personalised advice for your own home...
We're here whenever you need us.



[Start Your Free Solar Assessment](#)

Receive guidance based on your home, your electricity usage and your future plans.

No pressure.

No obligation.

Just straightforward advice to help you decide what comes next.

Phil's Take

People often ask me...

"What's the best solar system?"

The truth is...

I don't think there is one.

I think there's simply the best system for your home.

If this guide has encouraged you to ask better questions...

Take your time...

Compare your options...

And feel confident about your decision...

Then it's done exactly what I hoped it would.

And that makes every hour spent writing it worthwhile.

Thank You

Finally...

Thank you for trusting me with your time.

I genuinely hope this guide has helped.

If you know somebody else who's thinking about solar...

Please feel free to share it with them.

The more informed homeowners become...

The better decisions they'll make.

And I think that's good for everyone.

I wish you every success, whatever you decide.

Phil Carrick

Founder

SolarInstallersNI.com

"The best solar decision isn't the fastest one.
It's the one you still feel good about
years from now."

— Phil Carrick

I'd Love Your Feedback

This guide is updated regularly to keep pace with changes in solar technology, electricity prices and homeowner questions.

If you spotted something I could improve, or you'd simply like to tell me whether this guide helped you, we'd genuinely love to hear from you.

👉 Leave [feedback](#) at [SolarInstallersNI.com](#)



Thank You

Helping homeowners make informed decisions
before they buy.

[SolarInstallersNI.com](#)