

**FAST AND RELIABLE** 

# **Guide to Buying a Solar System Kit**



## Introduction

Investing in a solar system kit is a significant step towards energy independence and environmental sustainability. This guide will help you understand the key factors to consider, how to research the best brands, and estimate installation costs in the UK. By following this guide, you can make an informed decision and confidently purchase your solar system kit from our e-commerce website, <u>Solareon UK</u>.



## **GUIDE TO BUYING A SOLAR SYSTEM KIT**

This guide should provide you with a comprehensive understanding of what to consider when purchasing a solar system kit.

#### 1. Understanding Your Energy Needs

- ▶ Before buying a solar system kit, it's essential to evaluate your energy consumption:
  - Monthly Usage: Review your electricity bills for the past year to understand your average monthly energy usage in kilowatt-hours (kWh).
- Future Needs: Consider any changes that might increase or decrease your energy consumption (e.g., buying an electric vehicle, adding home appliances, or improving energy efficiency).

#### 2. Key Components of a Solar System Kit

A typical solar system kit includes:

- Solar Panels: Convert sunlight into electricity.
- Inverter: Converts the direct current (DC) generated by the panels into alternating current (AC) used by vour home.
- Mounting System: Secures the panels to your roof or ground.
- Battery Storage (Optional): Stores excess energy for use during non-sunny periods.
- Charge Controller (For off-grid systems): Regulates the voltage and current coming from the solar panels to the batteries.

#### 3. Types of Solar Systems

- Grid-Tied Systems: Connected to the local utility grid. They do not provide power during outages but can offset your electricity bill.
- Off-Grid Systems: Independent of the utility grid. They require batteries and a generator for backup.
- Hybrid Systems: Combine both grid-tied and off-grid systems. They can store excess energy and provide power during outages.

#### 4. Evaluating Your Location

- Solar Potential: Use tools like the Energy Saving Trust's Solar Energy Calculator to determine your location's solar potential.
- Roof Condition: Ensure your roof is in good condition and has sufficient space for panels.
- Orientation and Tilt: The optimal angle and direction for solar panels vary based on your geographic location. In the UK, south-facing roofs are typically ideal.



#### 5. Researching the Best Brands

- Quality and Efficiency: Look for brands with high-efficiency panels and reputable manufacturing practices.
- Warranty: A good warranty can indicate the manufacturer's confidence in their product. Look for at least 25 years for panels and 10 years for inverters.
  - Reviews and Ratings: Check customer reviews, industry ratings, and performance benchmarks. Websites like SolarReviews and EnergySage provide valuable insights.
- Certifications: Ensure the products are certified by relevant authorities like the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS).

#### **6. Estimating Installation Costs**

- System Size: The cost of a solar system is typically measured per watt. A larger system (in kW) will cost more upfront but may provide greater savings over time.
- Installation Fees: Professional installation costs can vary. Obtain multiple quotes from certified installers.
- Incentives and Rebates: Federal, state, and local incentives can significantly reduce the cost. Check the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) for available programs.
- Maintenance Costs: Consider the long-term maintenance and potential replacement costs for inverters and batteries.

#### 7. Finding and Choosing Installers

- Certifications: Look for certified installers. Feel free to raise a quote with our experts here
- Experience: Choose installers with a proven track record and positive customer feedback.
- Quotes and Proposals: Get multiple quotes and compare the scope of work, warranties, and costs.
- Site Visit: A reputable installer should conduct a site visit to assess your property and provide a detailed proposal.

#### 8. Financing Options

- Purchase: Paying upfront offers the best long-term savings but requires a significant initial investment.
- Loans: Solar loans can make solar systems more affordable by spreading the cost over several years.
- Government Solar Schemes: The Green Deal helps you make energy-saving improvements to your home and to find the best way to pay for them. The improvements that could save you the most energy depend on your home, but typical examples include:
  - insulation, such as solid wall, cavity wall or loft insulation
  - heating
  - draught-proofing
  - double glazing
  - renewable energy generation, such as solar panels or heat pumps
- Incentives and Rebates: The UK government offers schemes like the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG), which can help reduce costs. Check the Energy Saving Trust for up-to-date information on available incentives.



### CONCLUSION

Buying a solar system kit requires careful planning and research. By understanding your energy needs, evaluating your location, researching the best brands, estimating costs, and choosing the right installer, you can make an informed decision that will benefit both your finances and the environment.

**Ready to take the next step towards sustainable energy?** Explore our wide range of high-quality solar system kits on <u>Solareon UK</u>. Our kits include everything you need to start harnessing the power of the sun and are backed by industry-leading warranties and support.

#### Resources

- Energy Saving Trust Solar Energy Calculator: Energy Saving Trust
- Which? Solar Panel Reviews: Which?
- Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS): MCS
- Smart Export Guarantee (SEG): Ofgem SEG

This guide should provide you with a comprehensive understanding of what to consider when purchasing a solar system kit in the UK.

Visit <u>Solareon UK</u> now to find the perfect solar system kit for your home and start saving on energy costs today!



