

How to Choose a Contractor for Your Solar Project

Choosing the right contractor is an important step in installing a successful solar energy system. You may want to consider researching several, before you decide on one. The following questions provide some guidance to help you get started.

Keep in mind, a reputable solar contractor will come to your facility, and physically climb up on your roof to perform a few tests measuring orientation, hours of sun, shading, and the space and set-up of the roof. They may charge for the initial consultation but often that cost is folded into the cost of the installation, if you decide to proceed with that contractor.

Questions for Potential Solar Contractors:

1. Are you on the DEP list of certified contractors?
 - a. Check DEP's website, www.dep.state.pa.us for the most recent list of certified solar contractors
2. Does your company install the solar systems or do you use subcontractors?
 - a. Do you (or your subcontractor) have a licensed Electrician/Plumber on staff?
3. Are you certified to install solar product? Some manufacturers require certifications to honor the warranty of the installation.
4. What is covered in the price of the job – does it include all the application fees, permit fees, any possible additional contractors (like a structural engineer)? What is the required deposit and subsequent payment schedule for the remaining balance?
5. How will the system be mounted to my roof/property?
 - a. Can my roof support the system? Do I need a structural engineer to ensure the safety of the system?
6. Can you provide work references?

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