

15-Point Solar Quote Checklist

Why Use This Checklist?

Solar installations are a major investment, typically costing £6,000-£15,000. This checklist helps you identify red flags, ensure fair pricing, and verify installer legitimacy before you sign. Use it to compare quotes and ask the right questions.

The 15 Essential Items

1 System Size (kW) Clearly Stated

The total capacity of your solar panel system in kilowatts (kW).

RED FLAG: Vague or missing system size. Installers should be precise.

2 Number and Wattage of Panels

How many panels and their individual wattage (e.g., 10 x 400W panels = 4kW).

RED FLAG: No panel count or wattage specified.

3 Panel Manufacturer and Model

The exact brand and model number of the solar panels.

RED FLAG: Generic terms like "premium panels" without specific brands.

4 Panel Tier Rating (Tier 1/2/3)

Tier 1 panels are from financially stable manufacturers with proven track records.

RED FLAG: Tier 2 or 3 panels at Tier 1 prices, or no tier information.

5 Inverter Brand and Model

The inverter converts DC power to AC. Brand matters (e.g., SolarEdge, Enphase, GivEnergy).

RED FLAG: No inverter details or unknown brands.

6 Battery Brand, Model, and Capacity (if included)

If your quote includes a battery, you need the brand, model, and capacity (kWh).

RED FLAG: Battery included but no specifications provided.

7 Estimated Annual Generation (kWh)

How much electricity the system is expected to generate per year.

RED FLAG: Overly optimistic estimates (e.g., >1,000 kWh per kW in the UK).

8 Installation Cost Breakdown

Separate costs for panels, inverter, battery, scaffolding, and labor.

RED FLAG: One lump sum with no itemization.

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9

Warranty Details (Panels, Inverter, Battery, Workmanship)

Panels: 25 years. Inverter: 10-12 years. Battery: 10 years. Workmanship: 5-10 years.

RED FLAG: Shorter warranties or no warranty information.

10

MCS Certification Number

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) number proves the installer is certified.

RED FLAG: No MCS number. You won't qualify for SEG payments without it.

11

Installer Company Registration Details

Companies House registration number and trading history.

RED FLAG: Newly registered company (<1 year) or no registration details.

12

Expected ROI and Payback Period

Realistic payback period based on your actual energy usage (typically 7-12 years).

RED FLAG: Payback period under 5 years (likely inflated savings).

13

Post-Installation Support Terms

What happens if something goes wrong? Who do you call?

RED FLAG: No support details or third-party subcontractors only.

14

Payment Schedule

When and how much you pay (e.g., deposit, mid-install, completion).

RED FLAG: Full payment upfront or pressure to pay before work starts.

15

Cancellation Policy

Your right to cancel under the Consumer Contracts Regulations (14-day cooling-off period).

RED FLAG: No cancellation policy or restrictive terms.

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What to Do Next

1. Use this checklist to review your current quote.
2. If any items are missing, ask your installer for clarification.
3. Get at least 3 quotes and compare them using this checklist.
4. Use SolarVerify's free quote analyzer at www.solarverify.co.uk to get an instant verdict on pricing and quality.
5. Never feel pressured to sign immediately. Legitimate installers will give you time to decide.

Red Flags Summary

- Pressure to sign immediately or "limited time offers"
- No MCS certification number
- Vague component details or generic terms
- No itemized cost breakdown
- Unrealistic payback periods (under 5 years)
- Full payment required upfront
- Newly registered company with no track record
- No written warranty information
- Installer refuses to provide references

Ready to check your quote? Visit www.solarverify.co.uk