

# Solar Checklist

You can print and use this checklist to help make planning installation of your new photovoltaic solar system easier.



## Prepare Your Home

Make your home energy efficient before solar installation to maximize investment.

- Take five minutes to do your Home Energy Checkup at [pge.com/homenergycheckup](http://pge.com/homenergycheckup) and receive customized recommendations.

## Do the Math\*

- Explore financing options to determine the best photovoltaic solar system for your home.  
**Buy versus Lease**
- Use our solar calculator to estimate the size system you might need [pge.com/solarcalc](http://pge.com/solarcalc).
- Be sure to use solar calculator results when requesting bids and selecting a contractor.

\*Please note, experts recommend that a new solar system **should offset 80 to 85 percent of your energy use**. Many residential systems are 4 to 5 kilowatts (kW) in size.

## Find a Contractor

- Pick experienced contractors from whom to request bids using the contractor database available at [gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov](http://gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov).
- Request bids from a least three contractors.
- Verify contractor licenses
- Ensure all bids are prepared using the same assumptions as closely as possible so you can compare “apples to apples.” Assumptions to review include:
  - system measurements
  - warranties
  - length of time to install
  - what is included as a base package versus an “adder”
- Before signing a contract, read it carefully and thoroughly. Ensure all costs are included and ask questions about anything you do not fully understand.
- Take your time. Don't rush into a decision before fully evaluating your options.
- The California State License Board recommends that in general you should never pay more than \$1,000 or 10% of the contract price, whichever is less. To learn about a limited exception to this guidance, please visit [cslb.ca.gov](http://cslb.ca.gov).



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