

Solar Hot Water



What is a Solar Hot Water System?

Solar hot water systems – or solar thermal systems – use energy from the sun to heat hot water.

What is involved?

Solar panels – also called solar collectors – are installed on your roof and connected by metal pipes to a hot water tank. The tank is also connected to the boiler or other source of heat. The system has an electronic controller and a pump to move hot water between the panels and the tank.

How does it work?

The solar collectors can either be a flat plate design (as shown above) or an evacuated tube design. They should be positioned facing between south east and south west and at a slope of between 30 and 40° to maximise the solar energy they receive.

In most systems a solution containing antifreeze is heated by the collectors and pumped through a heat exchanger in a storage tank, where heat is given up and hot water stored for later use. In many cases the existing boiler is used to provide additional heating when needed.

At a glance

Annual Savings

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Around £100

350kgCO₂

Costs around £3,500

A suitably sized system can provide 60% of your hot water requirements and you probably won't need to turn your boiler on at all during the summer months.



If you wish to find out more about solar hot water or would like to get a quote from a trusted installer, please contact Actio₂n Surrey on 0800 783 2503