

## Solar Thermal Panels

What are they and how do they work?

Solar thermal is a renewable technology that uses the sun's energy to generate hot water and transfers this heat for storage in a hot water cylinder. The panels are most efficient when installed on a south-facing roof.



### Benefits

- Can achieve bill savings as the panels reduce heating demand on a boiler or immersion heater.
- Reduces dependency on energy companies.
- Usually requires one panel, so does not take up much roof space.
- Low maintenance requirements. An annual service, and a 5-year thorough service is recommended by most installers.
- Life-span of approximately 20-25 years.

### Things to consider

- Requires space for a larger hot water cylinder. If you currently have a combi-boiler, a cylinder will need to be added to the system.
- The system will not meet the entire hot water demand all year round, (approx. 90% in summer but can be just 25% in winter) so requires back-up with a gas boiler, immersion, or air source heat pump.
- Unlikely to be a permitted development on a listed building. Could require planning permission in a conservation area.
- Will need freeholder permission if property is shared ownership.
- Often not feasible for installation to be funded for flats or maisonettes.
- Ownership of the panel(s) is transferred upon sale of the property.

### Funding Expectations with Action Surrey

**Funded:** Surveys, panels and mounting equipment, labour costs, cylinder installation, commissioning, inverters, scaffolding. Lodgement with Trustmark and MCS.

**Not funded:** Specific models as requested by the customer will not necessarily be funded. Additional requirements should be discussed with the installer.

Supported by:



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