

Solar Contractors: How To Get Started

Did you know that rooftop solar may save you up to 40% on your electricity bill, compared to customers without solar?

We can help you get started with finding a licensed contractor.

Our Solar Calculator can help you figure out a few important things first.

You can use it to estimate the size of the solar system you need, your potential savings based on your electricity use, your roof type, and available tax credits and rebates.

And you can compare options like financing via cash, loan or lease.

Or adding battery storage to see how it impacts your costs and savings.

It costs more initially, but you save money over time.

Next step, use this information to select a contractor. The best way is to ask neighbors and friends for referrals.

You can also check review sites.

Be sure to get bids from at least three contractors.

The key factors when reviewing bids are the amount of energy your home consumes over a day, and the cost of the system per kilowatt hour.

Here are some tips for choosing the best bid.

One: Compare apples to apples. Get definitions to make sure you're comparing similar items.

Two: Dig for details. Each bid should include a full estimate, with all costs included.

Three: Ask questions. Get the license number, business history and at least three recent references.

Four: Read the fine print. Sign a contract only if you fully understand it. Make sure it includes warranties and maintenance agreements.

Five: Never make a down payment of more than 10% of the contract price or one thousand dollars, whichever is less. This is a California state law.

And verify contractor information online.

Get more information about going solar online at pge.com/solar.