

What do Solar Panels do?

Your home has solar PV panels installed on the roof, these use light to generate electricity.

You can use the electricity produced by the panels to power the electrical items in your home. Any extra electricity produced that you don't use will be fed into the National Grid.

As the panels need sunlight to generate electricity - the more light there is, the more electricity each panel will make. So on a sunny summer's day when the sun is shining brighter, and for longer, the panels will produce more electricity and for a longer period of time, than on a dull winter's day.

Please note, that even on a sunny day your solar panels may not provide enough free electricity to power more than one major electrical appliance (e.g. electric shower, electric cooker, Hoover, dishwasher, washing machine, tumble drier, iron, kettle etc.) at a time. Try using one appliance at a time (where practical) to make the most of the free energy generated by the panels.

The page overleaf explains the function of the internal components of this system.





Solar Inverter — This converts the DC electricity generated by the solar panels to AC, so it can be used within the house. You do not need to interact with this. It may be located within the loft, or a cupboard.

Isolation Switch — An electrician may need to use this to make the system safe to work on, it isolates the solar panels from the rest of the property.

Generation Meter — This shows the units (kWh) of electricity generated by the solar panels. Your electricity supplier does not need readings from this meter. When the red light on this meter flashes, the solar panels are generating electricity, when it is solid red no electricity is being generated (i.e. at night). It is usually located in a cupboard near your consumption meter and consumer unit.

Consumption Meter — This is the meter owned by your energy supplier, and is used to meter the units of electricity consumed within your property. Depending on the tariff you are on, you may have two meters ('peak' and 'off peak') or a smart meter.

Domestic Consumer unit — Also known as a 'fuse box', this distributes power throughout your home. You will need to check this if you experience a loss of power to see if a circuit breaker needs reset.

