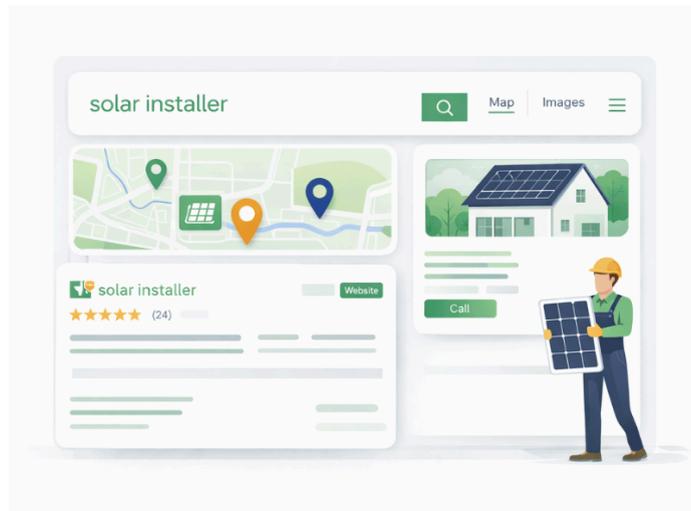


# The Independent Solar & Battery Guide

A Neutral Reference for UK Property Owners *FindSolar National Buyer's Guide | Version 1.0*  
(2026)



## 1. The Day Zero Home Audit

*Before contacting an installer, perform this 5-minute structural check:*

- **The 20-Year Rule:** Solar panels have a 25+ year lifespan. If your roof requires repair or retiling within the next decade, address the roof before installing solar to avoid the high cost of removal and reinstallation.
- **The Shadow Audit:** Observe your roof between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Is there a chimney, tree, or neighbour's gable casting a shadow? While modern "optimised" systems can handle partial shade, "clean" light is always the most efficient.
- **Property Rights:** You must be the homeowner to authorise an install. Most systems fall under Permitted Development, but if you live in a Conservation Area or a Listed Building, you may require specific planning consent.

## 2. Understanding the "Gear"

*Solar is "solid-state" technology with no moving parts. A standard setup consists of:*

- Panels (PV): Usually 8 to 14 panels on a standard semi-detached home, converting daylight into DC electricity.
- The Inverter: A wall-mounted unit (often in the loft or garage) that converts DC into the AC electricity used by your home appliances.
- Battery Storage: A unit that "catches" excess energy during the day so you can use it at night. This is the single biggest factor in reducing your grid dependency.

### 3. Financial Reality: "Saving" vs "Making"

*The primary benefit of solar is avoided cost, not export profit:*

- Value of Saving: Using your own power saves you the full retail price (currently ~27p per kWh).
- Value of Exporting: Sending excess power back to the grid typically earns you much less (~5p to 15p per kWh).
- The Strategy: Success is measured by Self-Consumption. The more you use your own power (running appliances during the day or storing it in a battery), the faster the system pays for itself.

### 4. The "Defence Kit" (Red Flags & Questions)

*Use these to filter out high-pressure salespeople:*

| ✘ AVOID (Red Flags)                                | ✔ DEMAND (Must-Haves)  |
|--|--|
| "This discount is only valid if you sign today."   | MCS Certification: Non-negotiable for safety and grid payments.        |
| "The government grant is ending this week."        | G98/G99 Application: The installer must handle this grid permit.       |
| "The system will pay for itself in under 7 years." | Shading Analysis: A simulation of your specific roof's performance.    |
| "Our panels work perfectly in total shade."        | Insurance-Backed Guarantee: Protects your warranty if the firm closes. |

### 5. Quote Normalisation Table

*Fill this in to compare your 3 mandatory quotes side-by-side:*

| Feature                | Quote A | Quote B | Quote C |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| System Size (kWp)      |         |         |         |
| Battery Capacity (kWh) |         |         |         |
| MCS Registered?        |         |         |         |
| Total Price (Inc. VAT) |         |         |         |

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FindSolar.solar *Providing independent, calm, and accurate solar reference data since 2026.*