



Making Your Home “Solar Ready”

What is “Solar Ready”?

Making a home “solar ready” means preparing a house for the installation of a solar energy system. This means optimizing the energy efficiency of the home and providing a location for equipment and wiring.

Why Make Your Home “Solar Ready”?

Making your home solar ready makes the solar energy system a better value for your budget. The more efficient your home, the less energy it requires. The less energy your home requires, the smaller the size of the solar energy system you will have to buy.

How to Make Your Home “Solar Ready”

Before installing a photovoltaic (PV) systems to generate solar energy or a solar water heating system, evaluate the existing conditions of the house and surroundings to determine whether the house is a good candidate for installing renewable energy systems such as these.

- **Building Envelope** – This refers to the roof, walls, windows and doors of the home.
 - **Roof** - Roofing material should be selected to not only for energy efficiency, but for durability when installing and supporting the solar energy system. Examine the roof to make sure it has adequate exposure to the sun for a solar energy system to function properly. If there are problems finding appropriate areas on the roof of your home, you have the option to build structures such as arbors, trellises, garden sheds, or gazebos which may be located in areas of your yard with more favorable solar exposure.
 - **Walls** - Adequate insulation should be installed in the walls.
 - **Windows** - Install low-E glass windows or install solar screens over existing windows to limit heat infiltration.
 - **Doors** - Make sure adequate weather-stripping is in place around all exterior doors.
- **Home Energy Rating** - Contact a RESNET-certified home energy rater to perform a thorough audit and make pinpoint recommendations how your home could be made more energy efficient. Depending on where a home is deficient, upgrades should be performed. A list of qualified raters may be found at <http://www.natresnet.org/directory/raters.aspx>
- **Appliances** - Replace old or inefficient appliances with ENERGY STAR® rated appliances.
- **Lighting** - Fixtures should be fitted with fluorescent or compact fluorescent bulbs.
- **Equipment Location** - Provide areas in your utility room, garage or elsewhere to install the inverter and other related equipment. Remember if you are connecting your PV system to the house panel, being a CPS Energy customer, you can obtain credit for the excess energy you produce when it exceeds the energy your home demands. There will be no need at all for expensive batteries.

The Making Your Home Solar Ready guidelines of the **Build San Antonio Green™** Renovation /Remodeling Program describes how to prepare a house to make the addition of renewable energy systems more simplified and more effective. If you are interested in purchasing a certified green-built solar-ready home or in renovating your home to be solar-ready, ask your builder to contact Build San Antonio Green™.

For more information on these programs, contact Build San Antonio Green at 210.224.7278 or buildsagreen.org

www.buildsagreen.org

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