

# Getting the most from your solar panels

Your landlord has installed solar electricity panels on your roof. This guide will show you how the panels work and help you get the most out of the electricity they produce.



# How your solar panels work



## Solar electricity panels

(sometimes known as 'solar PV')

**use light from the sun to generate free electricity during the day.**

The electricity either gets used up when you use electrical items at home, or sent (exported) to the National Grid if it's not used up straight away.

Your solar panels will generate more electricity during summertime when the days are longer and lighter. They generate most electricity when it's sunny, but will still produce some when it's cloudy. Over the year the panels should reduce your electricity bills – you will make bigger savings if you adapt your electricity use to make the most out of them.

When you use the electricity as it is being generated, **it's free**, but your panels will only generate a certain amount of electricity (if you use more than the panels are producing, you will have to pay for it).

When you use electricity while the panels are not generating, for example after dark, you'll be charged for this by your electricity supplier.

Your panels will not provide you with all the electricity you need to run your home, so you will have an electricity bill to pay. However, adapting your household routine to get the most out of your panels will help you keep the bill to a minimum.



# The best way to use the panels to save money? It's easy...

**Use electrical items during daylight hours rather than after dark, whenever possible.**



- ☀ Try to keep jobs that need more electricity such as ironing, hoovering, cooking or washing clothes for the middle of the day.
- ☀ Charge any electrical items such as phones or electric toothbrushes during daylight hours.
- ☀ If you have an electric cooker, consider cooking a hot meal in the daytime rather than in the evening.
- ☀ If you have an electric shower, use it during the day rather than after dark.
- ☀ Remember that the panels will produce most electricity when it is sunny, so this is the best time to put electrical appliances on.



**Use one major appliance at a time during daylight hours.**

Even when it is sunny, your panels may not provide enough free electricity to power more than one major appliance (e.g. cooker, Hoover, kettle, iron, washing machine, tumble drier, dishwasher) at a time.



So, for example, in the daytime:

- ☀ Do the hoovering after the washing machine has finished, not at the same time.
- ☀ Have a shower before you turn the washing machine on.

The number of appliances you can power for free depends on the size of the panels, their location and the weather. Also, different types of appliances use different amounts of electricity so it's difficult to say exactly what you can use for free.



**Remember – the best way to cut your electricity bill is simply to use less!**

- ☀ On a warm dry day, air dry clothes rather than tumble dry and turn off your TV when you're not watching it. For more advice on saving energy at home call your local energy advice line (see back page for details).

We hope you'll enjoy lower electricity bills thanks to the solar panels on your roof. You are now part of a growing group of householders who are making simple changes that will bring you real savings.

To get the best out of your panels, you'll need to make a few changes to your daily routine. Taking these small steps can save you money.

It's hard to say what savings you'll make as it depends on your circumstances (such as the size of your solar panels or how much you are at home during the day). Some households may save less than £50 a year but some may be able to save as much as £200 per year. As solar panels are a green source of electricity you are also helping the environment.



**If you have any questions about your solar panels,  
please contact your landlord directly.**

**For free impartial advice on  
saving energy at home call:**

**Scotland:** *Home Energy Scotland*  
0808 808 2282 (freephone)

**England and Northern Ireland:**  
*Energy Saving Advice Line*  
0300 123 1234 (calls charged at national rates)

**Wales:** *Energy Saving Advice Line*  
0800 512 012, option 3 (freephone)  
or Nest 0808 808 2244 (freephone).



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