

Questions to Ask Solar Contractors



ABOUT THE COMPANY		
	Western Solar	Other
How many years has your company been installing solar?	12+ years	
Are you a pre-certified contractor with our utility? (Note not all utilities have this program.)	Yes	
Is there a list of references we can speak with who have installed the specific products you are proposing?	Yes	
Does your team have any additional solar certifications such as NABCEP or product-specific certifications?	Yes	
Does your company specialize in solar installations or are you a broader electrical contractor?	We are a licensed Electrical Contractor that only installs Solar Electric/Clean Energy Systems	
What is your company warranty for the installation of the system and the connections to the roof?	10 years	
SYSTEM DESIGN		
	Western Solar	Other
What racking manufacturer are you proposing for my site?	Racking Varies by Site	
Where is it manufactured?	USA	
How does the racking interface with my roof? What vapor barriers exist to prevent leakage?	Triple vapor barrier with all metal flashing	
Has your installer designed the system to achieve less than a 1.20 DC to AC Ratio to prevent inverter clipping?	Yes	
What tools/methods do you use for estimating solar production?	Onsite shade analysis and site condition measurements that interface with 30+ years of solar data.	
What is the expected variation from the estimated production?	Site Specific. Our systems typically perform between 1-4% higher than expectations.	
PERMITTING		
	Western Solar	Other
Apart from the electrical permit, is there a structural/building permit required for my project?	Varies based on jurisdiction	
Is there a current pre-engineered WA wet stamp on the racking that will be used for this project?	Yes	
Will you comply with WA Fire Code 605.11.3.2 setback requirements?	Yes	
Will you comply with international plumbing code which informs height restrictions and clearance requirements of roof vents and solar panels?	Yes	
OTHER CONDITIONS		
	Western Solar	Other
What specific additional fees could there be that are not included in the proposal?	The cost of a Solar Production Meter will be billed to the customer by their serving utility on the first bill after the solar production meter has been installed by the utility, at a cost of \$120 (Seattle City Light) to \$83.00 (PSE) for standard grid-tied or \$425 (PSE) for grid-tied/battery back-up systems. The cost for Snohomish PUD customers is included in their Western Solar contract.	