

Three considerations to make before installing solar panels



The technology behind solar roofing panels has really improved a lot in recent years making them more energy efficient, more affordable, and lot more popular. But before you jump on the solar roofing bandwagon, there are a few things you'll want to consider first.

Your roof warranty

Your roof is warrantied in two ways. The shingles/tiles themselves come with a manufacturer's warranty should they fail prematurely through no fault of your own. The roofing company who installed the roof (assuming you went with a professional) most likely insures their work so if the roof fails due to improper installation and the manufacturer doesn't cover it, the roofing company will. When you install solar panels on top of an existing roof, there's a good chance it can void either or both warranties. To be safe, put the solar panel installer in contact with the roofing company so you know where you'll stand with your roof's warranties after a solar panel installation.

Cost vs. savings

Though the cost of solar roofing has come down, it's still expensive. Solar installers will tell you that the initial cost up front is worth it when you consider the savings but that's not necessarily true. Depending on your climate and which way your roof faces, solar may not make good financial sense. Also don't assume you'll earn a tax credit since that incentive isn't always being offered.

Alternatives

Though solar roofing is the only type of roof that generates electricity, there are roofing materials out there like clay tiles or metal that are much more energy efficient than asphalt shingles that can drastically lower your energy bills.

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