

Selecting a Solar Installer Consumer Guide



Choosing the right solar professional is a crucial step in your journey toward clean energy for your home or business. FlaSEIA is dedicated to empowering you with the knowledge and resources needed to make confident choices about your solar journey.

Questions to Ask Before Signing a Solar Contract

☀️ **What is your Florida contractor license number?**

State law requires a Florida contractor license to contract with a homeowner. For solar they should have a license which begins with the letters CVC or EC.

Then confirm this by visiting www.myfloridalicense.com If the company name on the sales person's business card or brochure does not match the company name on the contract that is a red flag.

☀️ **How long have you been installing solar systems in Florida? What is your Florida office address?**

☀️ **How many solar installations do you have in my area?**

☀️ **Do you service and support the equipment you install?**

☀️ **Who will be installing my solar panels? Are they employees or a subcontractor?** Request proof of general liability and workers compensation insurance for both the contractor and the company who will be installing the panels.

Additional Tips Before Signing a Contract

- ☀️ **Solar is not free.** An honest company will be upfront about the costs you will pay over time.
- ☀️ **Speak with more than one company when considering solar for your home.** Having information from two or more companies provides you an opportunity to compare features and pricing. Don't feel pressure to sign a contract the same day they present the proposal. As with any large purchase, read the contract and understand the terms.
- ☀️ **Read the entire contract presented by the contractor, including fine print and addendums.** Florida law requires a contractor to apply for a permit within 30 days and start work within 90 days if he collects more than 10 percent of the contract up front. Understand the terms for cancelation, payment schedule, how long the work is expected to take and what will happen should the costs or times exceed the estimates. Note: If you purchase goods or services during the course of a "home solicitation sale," you maintain a three-day right to cancel. A sale is considered a "home solicitation sale" if it takes place in your home, or at a location which is not the main or permanent place of business for the seller, so long as the purchase price is more than \$25.
- ☀️ **Chapter 520 Part II Florida Statutes covers consumer protections for DISTRIBUTED ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEM SALES.** You can review the disclosure requirements listed in the Statute by clicking here.
Click here for a PDF sample of the disclosure forms
- ☀️ **Click here for a PDF sample of the disclosure forms**

Who needs a License to Sell Solar

- ☀️ **Florida has licensing requirements for all solar contractors.** The state certification (licensure) for solar contractors is required by anyone who contracts with a homeowner for installation, alteration, repairs, maintenance, relocating or replacement of any type of solar thermal or PV systems. Individuals employed by the contractor are not required to be licensed.
- ☀️ **Florida Statutes 489.105 (6)** “Contracting” means, except as exempted in this part, engaging in business as a contractor and includes, but is not limited to, performance of any of the acts as set forth in subsection (3) which define types of contractors. The attempted sale of contracting services and the negotiation or bid for a contract on these services also constitutes contracting. If the services offered require licensure or agent qualification, the offering, negotiation for a bid, or attempted sale of these services requires the corresponding licensure.

How to Verify a Contractor’s License

- ☀️ **To verify a contractor’s license, go to www.myfloridalicense.com.** Type the license number listed on the proposal, business cards and marketing material of the contractor you are interviewing. You can also search by company name.
- ☀️ **All of FlaSEIA’s contractor members are required to hold an active contractors license and provide proof of general liability and workers compensation coverage.** However, if you would like to verify a contractors license who is not a member of FlaSEIA you can do so easily.
- ☀️ **Explore our [list of FlaSEIA member companies](#).** These professional, qualified solar installers serve Florida and the surrounding areas and have agreed to the FlaSEIA [Code of Ethics](#).