

Finn Peacock's checklist for comparing solar, battery, EV charger and heat pump apples with apples.

Please fill this in as our installers provide you with quotes :)

Most people have a great experience, but just in case:

#1 If your credit card comes with purchase protection insurance, check with your bank that the deposit is eligible, then pay the deposit with that credit card for added protection if something goes wrong between paying the deposit and installation.

#2 Add the solar to your household insurance now - with cover from the day of installation in case there is (for example) a major hail storm the same day. It has happened!

Price and Conditions	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Company Name			
Price			
Include company's physical address and other contact details?			
Includes ABN?			
Includes Electrical Contractor's Licence?			
Includes name and licence of SAA Accredited Designer who did the design?			
Includes full design sketch (panel layout, inverter, battery, EV charger and heat pump position)?			
Plain English, reasonable length contract?			
Is quoted price the guaranteed final price?			
Deposit amount (no more than 10-20%)?			
Balance payable when?			
Timeframe for install?			
Timeframe for final grid connection?			
Estimated annual energy yield is given in writing?			
What self-consumption ratio is assumed on any savings calculations?			
What electricity price inflation is used to calculate payback?			
Explains your rights under Australian Consumer Law?			

Installation Company	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Site visit before install?			
Assessed any shade properly?			
Looked at fusebox?			
Workmanship warranty (yrs)?			
<u>Installer feedback score:</u>			
Subcontractors or Employees?			
Any good/bad experiences reported on whirlpool.net.au (Google "[company name] Whirlpool") ?			

Note: Use [this table to compare panels](#) side-by-side.

Panels	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Brand			
Listed here ?			
Manufacturer's Warranty (years): (Note: this is product warranty not the performance warranty)			
Manufacturer has Australian presence/office?			
Good Solar Panel Reviews from customers?			

Note: Use [this table to compare inverters](#) side-by-side.

<u>Inverter</u>	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Brand			
Listed here?			
Manufacturer's warranty (years)?			
Will be positioned in the shade or cool garage?			
Includes consumption monitor? Price?			
Manufacturer has Australian presence/office?			
1 input per roof area?			
Good Inverter Reviews from previous customers?			

Racking	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Racking Brand is specified and on this chart?			

Note: Use [this table to compare batteries](#) side-by-side.

Batteries	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Size in kWh (nominal energy capacity)			
Power in kW			
Includes backup?			
Which specific appliances are backed up?			
If 3 phase home – 3 phase backup?			
Can charge batteries from panels during outage?			
Backup switchover time?			
Battery bypass switch included (unless installer advises not required)?			
Battery payback calculated separately? Please read this			
If modular battery – do you understand cost of adding modules in the future?			
If you have an EV charger, will battery avoid discharging into EV?			
Compatible with local Virtual Power Plants?			
Manufacturer has Australian presence/office?			
Savings estimate in writing?			
Warranty (years)			
Warranty (kWh)			
Warranted degradation (%) i.e how much capacity left when warranty expires			

Note: Use [this table to compare EV chargers](#) side-by-side.

EV Charger	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Price			
EV Charger model			
Warranty (years)			
Charger location agreed? (out of direct sun)			
Charger cabling route agreed? Surface conduit or in-wall?			
Installer looked in your switchboard to ensure: a) enough room b) You won't trip main breaker at full load			
Local Isolator? Yes/No (not required, but you may prefer one)			
Length of charging cable.			
Will be installed on 32A circuit? (for max charging speed)			
If house is three-phase: three-phase charger?			
Features (if important to you):			
Integrates with your solar?			
Integrates with your battery?			
Charging cable supplied? Note. If you need to BYO cable, 10m cable can cost ~\$400			
OCPD compatible			
Phone App (test the app to see if it's any good and has got the features you need)			
Multiple Charger Load Management			
Household Loads Demand Management			
Timers			
Secure Access			

Note: Use [this table to compare heat pumps](#) side-by-side.

Heat pump	Quote 1:	Quote 2:	Quote 3:
Price			
Brand			
All-in-one or split?			
Tank size (litres)			
Warranty (years)			
Heat pump location agreed?			
Does tank contain resistive element?			
What refrigerant is used?			
Max decibels of heat pump? If over 45 dB – is tank installed away from living areas?			
Contains inbuilt timer?			
Wifi/app control?			
Time to reheat full tank?			
STCs per litre? (needs link to under-development tool when ready)			

IF YOUR ROOF HAS ANY SHADE: I strongly advise a [shade survey](#) with a ‘Suneye’ (or similar device). These surveys are time-consuming for the installer, so in my experience the best way to arrange this is: **1)** choose your favorite installer. **2)** pay a deposit on the understanding that it is 100% refundable if the shade analysis shows too much shade. **3)** Get shade analysis done by chosen installer. **4)** Decide if you are happy with energy loss due to shade. Proceed if you are happy.

Everything you need to know as a primer – or refresher – is covered by my comprehensive guides for buying [solar](#), [batteries](#), [EV chargers](#) and [heat pumps](#)

Finally: The solar buying process from:

- applying for permission to install solar
- to upgrading your meter
- and getting final permission to power up your system

...varies depending on where you live and who your local electricity network company is. [I explain the process for each state/territory here](#). Even though your installer will handle most of this for you – it's useful to understand the sequence of events.