

### Frequently Asked Questions about Solar Thermal

**Doesn't solar water heating only work in hotter countries than the UK?**

In a word, no, this type of water heating depends on radiation from the sun. Although this varies, these systems still work well in the UK.

**Is solar thermal suitable for my house?**

If you have around 5m<sup>2</sup> of unshaded roof space which ideally faces south and don't have a roof incompatible with solar thermal systems, then yes, your property should be suitable.

**Is solar thermal suitable for providing heating as well as hot water?**

In general, no it is not. Heating is required most in the winter months when the sun is at its weakest. Therefore you would need a vast array of panels to provide a small percentage of your heating, which is not effective.

**What is estimated lifetime of solar panels?**

Solar thermal systems are expected to last around 25 years and usually have a 10 year guarantee.

**Do they require lots of maintenance?**

Solar thermal systems require very little maintenance. An annual check by the owner and a maintenance every 3 to 5 years should be sufficient. However, if debris such as leaves fall on the collector, this can affect performance, so these will need to be swept off.

