

Questions to Ask a Solar Contractor Before Signing a Contract

Purchasing a solar array is a big investment and it's important that you get the best system for a reasonable price that is sized correctly for your home and installed properly. It's best to get at least 3 bids in writing in order to compare the equipment and pricing of each carefully before making a final decision.

Questions about the solar company's background

How long have you been in business?

Are you licensed and insured to do business in Kansas?

How many solar systems has your company installed and are they installed by employees or subcontractors?

Can you provide a list of references?

Questions about the installation at your home

Make sure you ask about the options available to you regarding brands of systems, warranties, where the product is manufactured, and whether you'll qualify for any tax credits, rebates, or incentives.

Ask how you will be able to monitor the output of your panels and also what your payback period will be. Remember, Ark Valley does not offer net metering so it's imperative the solar company understands this when calculating the payback period and your potential savings. (Please refer to the "What You Need to Know Before Installing Solar" document.)

Questions about the bid, contract, and payment

Is the bid an estimate or a fixed price? If it's a fixed price, who pays for unexpected problems that may arise during installation?

Does the bid include warranty information and expected operation and maintenance costs? Who would you contact if there was a problem and you needed to file a claim?

Does the bid include payment options and financing details?

Does the bid have details about who will file the necessary paperwork for tax credits, incentives, or rebates?