

DIY/Self installation of the Imagination Solar water heating system

Labour charges can often account for about 50% of the cost of installing a solar thermal system.

If you are a reasonably competent DIYer, self-builder or are having some building work done it may well work out cheaper to buy the kit and carry out or arrange the installation yourself. Many people have successfully fitted the system; see the testimonials on the next page for a few examples. Commonly people who are having building work done get the roofer to fit the collector (its almost identical to fitting a Velux window so they should have no problem) and the plumber to fit the cylinder and pipe work.

The system has been designed with ease of installation and minimisation of specialist skills and equipment in mind.

Simple to install

Strong and lightweight (only 25kg) polycarbonate collector is easy to lift onto roof.

Pre-plumbed drainback unit with push fit connections and flexible micro-bore pipe work.

No soldering or specialist plumbing skills required.

Detailed installation guides.

DC power adapter - no mains wiring.

Roof integrated or mounted on an over roof frame.



David Lambert with his self installed collector

Low maintenance

Simple drainback design does not require annual servicing or specialist filling equipment

Deltasol electronic controller gives detailed information on system performance

Friendly support

We are very happy to give advice and provide quotations in advance of a purchase plus can offer technical support over the phone during your installation if required. Please feel free to get in touch.

Wide variety of off-the-shelf and custom made cylinders available

We can help you choose the right cylinder for your project. Unusual sizes, extra coils, tapping etc are no problem.

Testimonials

“Just wanted to drop you a line to say how pleased I have been with the performance of my Imagination Solar, solar panels since I installed them last year.

Installation was very straightforward and I was able to do all the plumbing myself, only getting assistance to place the solar collectors on the roof where the panels sit very discreetly, and to my mind look positively attractive!

I was surprised to see just how well the panels worked even through the winter, where on a reasonably sunny day the system certainly added a boost to my domestic hot water tank, leaving less work for my primary water heater (electric immersion) to do.

Since the onset of spring / summer the solar system has been producing the bulk of the families hot water on all but the cloudiest days and on a decent day will certainly have heated up my 200 litre tank to the required temperature well before lunchtime.

Thanks for all your technical and informal advice on installation, and for putting together a really effective solar system”

-Mike Shipperlee, Norfolk

“We had always wanted a solar panel and as the house was being re-roofed we took the opportunity to fit one.

I accessed two installation guides from Imagination Solar’s web site, which were so comprehensive that I didn’t need any other information or help from them. These guides also include information about any extra materials that may be required, i.e. batons, stainless steel screws and lead flashing, together with the relevant sizes. We purchased the panel well before we needed it and Imagination Solar were happy to store it for us and delivered it with just a couple of days notice.

My neighbour helped me lift the solar panel from the scaffold and fit it into place, then the roofers tiled up to it.

Inside the house, the plumbing was straightforward as I had a solar coil in the Gledhill heat store. My wife helped me thread the pipes through into the loft and down to the hot water tank and drain back unit. The instructions for the wiring and programming were also straightforward. All in all it was much easier to fit than I had anticipated it would be.

I was also delighted to see that even in March the temperature on the panel got up to 117°C.

We are using a Gledhill heat store, in which the emersion heater thermostat is factory set to 80°C. We have reset the emersion heater thermostat to 56°C, which gives us adequate hot water when it is cloudy. Most days the solar panel provides enough hot water so that the emersion heater does not come on.

The system monitor gives three temperature readings for the solar panel, the solar coil in the heat store and at the top of the tank; so monitoring the system is very simple.”

-David Lambert, Bristol

“I've just commissioned our SDHW system, bought from you some months ago and only recently installed

- I thought you'd like to know that it's working very well, with two collector panels feeding a 277ltr Torrent RE heat store and a Resol controller. Generally installation was easy with your manuals.”

-Don Taylor, Fordingbridge