

SOLAR HOT WATER MAINTENANCE TIPS

CONGRATULATIONS on choosing a solar hot water system. Now make sure it is doing what you expect using the following tips.

Solar thermal hot water systems are low maintenance systems able to look after themselves for many years (if installed correctly!). However, there are a few essentials to check in order to ensure the long life expected.

- The main thing to watch out for solar fluid leaks (antifreeze) which will have a strong smell - contact us if you suspect a leak. The pressure may also drop.
- Make sure your solar system is doing what you expect. If it is sunny and you have no hot water check the pump is working. The temperature sensors on the panel could be damaged (by rodents or squirrels) making it seem like the pump isn't working so check that first.
- If the pump is running but the water is cold check for airlocks.
- Check the pressure on the system from time to time. It should normally run at 1-2 bar although it can drop as low as 0.5 in cold weather as the fluids contract and as high as 3 or 4 bar if the system gets very hot. If the pressure falls to 0.5 and stays there call us.
- The solar fluid will degrade over time and will need replacing eventually. As it degrades it will change to a darker colour and take on a distinctive odour. If the solar fluid overheats it will become dark, cloudy and grainy. If you have an overheating situation you should cover the tubes.
- If you have a head for heights and can access the panel give the tubes a clean with a soft cloth and soapy water to rid it of dirt and grime perhaps every couple of years.
- If you can get close to your panel you can check tubes to see if the vacuum is intact. If not the tube will appear cloudy on the manifold end. Contact us for warranty replacements.
- In extremely hot weather put your system into holiday mode so it releases the hot water overnight allowing it a cold tank of water to heat in the morning. The tubes have an overheating protection system so this is an additional precaution in extreme weather.
- When you are away from home put your system into holiday mode.
- If you are in any doubt that your solar hot water system is not performing as it should please give us a call and we will be happy to talk you through some simple checks.

For peace of mind we have introduced our **Solar Servicing and Maintenance Service** carried out by a Kingspan Solar Accredited Installer. We will check all of the above, clean the tubes etc. and we can also carry out Kingspan warranty replacement or repairs. Service and repairs on all other makes is also possible.

We also carry out surveys for Insurance or litigation purposes and can provide a Devis for the repair and replacement of parts.

We are covered by Insurance 'Responsabilité Civile Décennale & Professionnelle' SFS Securities and Financial Solutions Europe Policy No; 1502DERCEL03588 and 150PJASSCF06957

'Using the sun's energy to heat your hot water is the most cost effective renewable energy system'