

LOCAL

PAID
ADVERTISING
SECTION

GET SOUND ADVICE FROM LOCAL PROFESSIONALS
IN THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE

KNOWLEDGE

What You Should Know About Going Solar and Common Misconceptions



Solar is Beneficial and Affordable. Right now is a better time than ever to go solar and reduce or eliminate your

electric bill. Many people believe that solar systems are extremely expensive and out of reach, but this is actually a common misconception. With the current CA rebates (currently up to \$1900/kw for SDG&E customers) and the 30% federal tax credits available, at least half of the system's cost can be covered by these incentives and it will pay for itself in 5 to 7 years. Since most panels are under warranty for 25 years, you can expect this return on your investment for at least that long.

While it's evident that the financial benefits of going solar are very appealing, there is no denying that the most important reason to go solar is to do your part in helping the environment. By producing electricity with the power of the sun, you can reduce CO² emissions by 10,000 pounds per year (with a 3 kilowatt system). That is compared to coal burning electrical power plants.

If you do decide to go solar, here are a few things that you should do:

Assess your home. The ideal direction for solar panels is a southern facing slope. Also, consider shading problems (shaded panels compromise their performance) like trees, chimneys, a neighbor's 2nd level home, telephone poles, etc.

Get the system size that suits your needs. Your optimum system size will be determined by your average electrical usage and the amount of usable space on your roof that is in the optimum direction.

Get multiple quotes & do your homework. To find a local state certified solar dealer and installer, you can visit the website www.gosolarcalifornia.org. You should obtain at least three different quotes from solar contractors for comparison. In order to receive your CA rebate, solar panels must have a 25-year warranty, inverters must have a 10-year warranty, and the solar installer must have a 10-year warranty on all workmanship.

A different kind of solar company. Candelaria Electric is a San Clemente based company and owner Marc Candelaria started his company with the vision of helping the community go solar at an affordable price that is extremely competitive. They handle all sales, installation and CA rebate paperwork for all solar systems that are sold, and **they do not sub-contract any of their work.** They back all manufacturer warranties and guarantee all workmanship on the solar systems for 10 years.

For more detailed information on solar systems or how **Candelaria Electric** can help you reduce your energy consumption, please visit their website at www.candelariaelectric.com, call (949) 498 2843 or email marc@candelariaelectric.com

Floor Talk



Now that wood flooring has become most people's choice for at least part, if not the majority of the home, we are faced with the big questions:

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Where do we go? Do we go to a large company that is nationally known, where we will be just a number? There's the lumber yard or the T.V. ads that say their prices are the cheapest and "...you can have it installed next day!" etc. etc.

But then follow the questions of: What kind of flooring do we want? What is the best and right floor for us? What price do we pay? And, most importantly: Who should we trust to show us the right wood flooring for our home? Who should be the one to install it?

We at the Finishing Touch Floors specialize in wood flooring. We have three family owned stores. With over thirty years under our belts, we have extensive product knowledge and hands on installation experience to match.

There has never been a better time to have wood flooring installed in your home, for many different reasons...

The wood floors at this time are at a peak in advanced engineering, from finish to structure, to installation technique. Not to mention that installer awareness and perfectionism has increased substantially recently.

What you want is to buy from a business where you can deal with the owner, or owners, directly, people who have hands on experience with the specific product that you're interested in, and have their own installers who are just as knowledgeable and have proven to be trusted. We're talking about a store which can immediately give you as many references as you need, and show you extensive examples of floors installed by its specialized installers.

You should choose a wood flooring that you like, but one that is also a quality product. And then there are the questions of how to go about it: Should we go out of the area? Should we get three bids or twelve? Do we want to go with a solid wood, or an engineered one? How long will each last? Will it have to be refinished at any time? When is a good time to buy? Will they come out with a better product down the road? Will it become less expensive? Will the installation method become more advanced later on?

We understand that people have all of these questions, and that's why we are dedicated to being there help guide you through.

We will be there for you, from start to finish, and down the road to make sure that we are there for any service needs.

The Finishing Touch
25252 Cabot Rd. Laguna Hills, Ca 92653
Next to Howard's Appliance
949.770.1797

Why Age in Place?



If you're like the majority of Americans, you want to continue living in a familiar environment throughout your maturing years.

In life, sooner or later, the house that was built for an "average" family does not work. One of the greatest concerns people have as they grow older is that they may have to leave their home. In fact an AARP survey found the number of Americans desiring to stay in their homes for the rest of their lives, to "Age in Place", to be greater than 80%.

Aging in Place means living in your homes safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age or ability level.

Whether for physical, geographic or monetary reasons, much of the aging population will someday have to face this issue. This possibly means leaving behind a comfortable living space, family, a familiar community and many memories. In addition, a certain amount of control is lost when a person gives up their home, their Haven. This "control" provides the basis for our feelings of dignity, quality of life and independence.

As health care costs rise, the aging population must decide how they want to spend their hard earned dollars. According to the MetLife Market Survey of Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Costs (2008), the national average cost for a private room in a nursing home is **\$69,715** annually. For a private room in an assisted living center -- it's over **\$36,000**.

California has some of the highest nursing home and assisted living costs in the nation. Careful consideration must be taken when deciding to give up your home and pay for these institutions or to "age in place."

Americans of all ages value their ability to live independently. But without a plan for aging in place, it can be hard to stay in control of your life. Most people find it hard to look that far ahead because they don't like to think about the inevitability of aging. People often misjudge their chances of developing a debilitating health condition. The fact of the matter is that growing older is a part of life and not enough people adequately plan ahead for the eventual problems that ensue.

Who we are:

Your Home For A Lifetime is an A.D.A/ Barrier-free/ Universal design, full service firm with 15 years of experience; Specializing in developing and integrating elegant and seamless designs/modifications to new or existing buildings. Our focus is on improving quality of life and maintaining independence.

Contact us at for your free in-home design consultation and allow us to help you create **Your Home For A Lifetime**.

Your Home For A Lifetime
103 1/2 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente, CA 92672
www.YourHomeForALifetime.com . 949 492.4118