Gryd

Maintenance

Solar Panel Maintenance and Replacement Costs: What Builders and Buyers Should Know

Twenty five years of upkeep, priced.

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As rooftop solar becomes a standard feature in new-build homes across the UK, understanding the long-term cost of solar panels is essential – for both housebuilders and homeowners.

For developers planning Future Homes Standard-compliant homes – and buyers investing in solar-powered properties – it's important to understand the ongoing maintenance and replacement costs of solar panels, including servicing, cleaning, insurance, and component replacement.

Solar Panel Maintenance Costs in the UK

Regular servicing and upkeep ensures optimal performance and longevity of home solar systems. For homeowners who own their system outright, it's important to factor in the following routine costs:

- Annual Servicing: Professional inspections and servicing helps to maintain your system's overall health and efficiency, costs between £100 and £300 per year.
- Solar Panel Cleaning: Solar panels work best when they're clean because dirt, pollen and other debris can block sunlight, reducing your system's performance over time. It's best to have your solar panels professionally cleaned at least once every year, with costs ranging from £100 to £250, depending on system size and accessibility.
- Insurance: If you own your solar system, you'll need to insure it. Ensure your policy provides coverage for the solar panels as well as the inverter and battery system. Adding a solar system to home insurance policies can cost an additional £60 to £100 annually.

Ongoing Maintenance Costs:

COST TYPE	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE	TOTAL 25-YEAR COST
Annual Servicing	£100–£150	£2,500–£3,750
Panel Cleaning	£100–£250	£2,500–£6,250
Insurance	£60–£100	£1,500–£2,500
Total		£6,500–£11,250

Replacement Costs

Typically, solar panels have a lifespan of 25 to 30 years and, barring physical damage or manufacturing defects, are unlikely to need replacement during that time. But that's not the full story:

- Solar inverters, the component that converts solar energy into usable electricity, usually need replacing every 10–15 years. Replacement costs in the UK range from £730 to £1,460, depending on the type and capacity
- Battery storage has become an important feature of future-ready new homes. Like inverters, they typically have a lifespan of 10–15 years depending on usage and technology. Costs to replace the battery vary based on capacity and brand, with prices averaging around £5,000 and increasing to as much as £10,000.

Lifetime Repair Costs:

COST TYPE	LIFESPAN	REPLACEMENT COST	TOTAL 25-YEAR COST
Inverter Replacement	10–15 years	£730–£1,460	£730–£1,460
Battery Replacement	10–15 years	£5,000–£10,000	£5,000–£10,000
Total			£5,730–£11,460

When combining maintenance and component replacement, the total lifetime cost of owning solar panels in the UK can reach:

£12,230 – £22,710 over a typical 25-year system lifespan.

These components can see households running into significant out-of-pocket costs if they're unprepared for them.

Solar Ownership vs Solar Leasing: Cost Comparison

Understanding the cost-benefit of solar lease vs ownership in the UK is important for homeowners deciding how to access solar energy.

Outright purchase of a solar system can offer the best long-term savings if you expect to stay in your home for 25 years or more – long enough to recoup the upfront investment through energy bill savings. However, it's important to weigh this against both the high initial cost of the hardware and the ongoing maintenance and repair needs, and the fact that these savings typically depend on not moving home before the payback period ends.

Gryd's Solar Leasing Model

Gryd offers an alternative approach through a maintenance-included solar lease model. Rather than purchasing the solar equipment, homeowners subscribe to the system while Gryd handles all maintenance, servicing, insurance and long-term system management.

- Upfront Cost: £0
- Monthly Subscription: Fixed, inflation-proof rate for 25 years (monthly price varies based on system size)
- Cleaning & Servicing: Included
- Battery & Inverter Replacements: Included
- Insurance: Included
- Total Estimated Cost Over 25 Years: Varies based on lease terms, but typically lower than ownership when factoring in maintenance and replacement costs.

This model removes many of the hidden costs of solar panels for homeowners, providing predictable long-term energy savings without maintenance responsibilities.

Key Considerations for Builders and Buyers

While solar ownership offers full control of the system, it also comes with long-term responsibilities and potential unexpected costs. Parts wear out, maintenance can't be ignored, and insurance may not cover all solar-related issues.

Gryd's solar subscription model removes these barriers by providing a fully managed solar system with maintenance included, turning solar into a simple, predictable energy solution.

For housebuilders and homeowners looking for a smarter way to adopt solar energy, Gryd offers a hassle-free alternative to traditional solar ownership.

Get in touch with Gryd today to explore a simpler approach to solar energy for new homes.

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