

Solar Guidelines

The Woodlands Homeowners Association (WHOA) adopts these guidelines in order to ensure that property owners have the freedom to employ alternative energy solutions if desired and to ensure uniform installation and design of solar energy systems. It is important to ensure that solar energy systems equipment is reasonably controlled as to appearance and location of installation, so as to protect neighbors and the community as a whole from unsightly equipment and/or installation. Accordingly, the purpose of these guidelines about solar energy systems and equipment is to reasonably control use and location to protect home values and aesthetics in the community, without preventing their use.

The WHOA has no expertise or special knowledge regarding such systems and therefore the ACC's approval for installation of any such device(s) or system is not a representation that the system chosen by an Owner is safe to use or is compatible with Owner's structures on the Lot or the Lot involved, and Owner assumes and bears all risks regarding installation and use of such a system.

Only commercially or professionally made devices are allowed. "Homemade" devices will not be permitted due to the safety and aesthetics aspects of such devices.

Placement of solar panels or collectors are prohibited on the façade of a structure that faces areas open to common or public access (to include public roads) and are prohibited on roof surfaces. Solar panels are limited to a ground-mounted array and must be placed on the side or rear of the house within the fence and shall not be taller than the fence line.

The installation of all solar heating and cooling systems shall only be done by a licensed installer or journeyman plumber.

Solar panels and equipment must be properly maintained at all times to prevent peeling and cracking of paint or loss of coloration or other deterioration to the point where the equipment becomes unsightly and/or incompatible with the aesthetic standards of the community. Failure to maintain will require the homeowner remove the solar panels and equipment. Fines may be imposed and assessed according to Section VI of the covenants.

All plans must be preapproved by the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) prior to installation. Home Improvement Requests should include the following:

- a. A diagram "drawn to scale" by the licensed contractor installing the system showing where the system will be installed;
- b. Drawings/photos of the ground-mounted array in the yard to include dimensions from the fence
- c. Material to be used and/or manufacturer's description of the system, photos and/or pictures of the system and color of the system.

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- d. All components of the solar system (i.e., frame, support bracket, and/or visible piping or wiring) should be integrated into the design of the home.
 - a. Piping and electrical connections will be located directly under and/or within the perimeter of the panels, when possible, and placed as inconspicuously as possible when viewed from all angles.