INVOlighting

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# Buying Guide For Solar Lights

The latest innovations in solar technology explained and guide of how to choose the best solution for you

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# What to look for when choosing a solar light:

Three factors that need to be considered when choosing a solar lighting product:

- RELIABILITY
- PERFORMANCE
- AFFORDABILITY

# Reliability:

Most failures in solar lights occur due to the limitations of one or more of these components.

| | Low Reliability | High Reliability |
|---|---|---|
| Battery Capacity  | **Small Battery Capacity**<br>Not enough battery storage to run all night. Light may have to dim after a few hours to save power | **Large Battery Capacity**<br>Enough battery storage for 3+ days of operation during prolonged overcast winter |
| Replacement Parts  | **Sealed Unit**<br>Some lower quality lighting products have electronics encased in a sealed unit making them impossible to repair. | **Push-Click System**<br>Higher quality products operate with a Push-Click system allowing easy replacement of key parts such as batteries, controllers etc. |
| Housing  | **Cheap Housing (Plastics)**<br>ABS or Polycarbonate will deteriorate with prolonged environmental exposure | **Quality Housing (Metals)**<br>High quality Stainless Steel or treated aluminium with a marine grade coating or galvanized finishes will be reliable with long term sun exposure. |

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# Performance:

Solar lighting is often marketed with elevated and misleading output values.

**Don't buy a product based solely on the wattage or power output advertised.**

This is only one of the factors that will inform you how a light is going to work once installed.

| | Low Performance | High Performance |
|---|---|---|
| LED Quality  | **Low Quality LED's**<br>Low quality LED's consume more power to deliver the same amount of light. | **High Quality LED's**<br>High quality LED's have higher efficiency and can deliver the same amount of light using less power. |
| Quality Parts  | **Low Quality Parts**<br>Mass produced lights contain mass produced generic parts which may have a higher failure rate. | **Better Quality Part**<br>Having the ability to decide which parts go into the production of a light will increase reliability and product assurance. |
| Solar Controller  | **Limited / No Options**<br>Generic operating profile set at the factory. Does not offer any timer settings or the ability to adjust or control the power output | **Custom Adjustments**<br>Ability to customise operating profile, run times, power output and advanced power scaling to ensure continued operation through bad weather |

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# Affordability:

The lowest cost product is unlikely to be the most affordable option.

Whenever you pay less up front for something, you end up paying more over the lifetime of the project when you add the cost of replacement costs of new fixtures, time, labour and equipment hire.

| | Low Affordability | Affordable |
|---|---|---|
| **Installation**  | **Involved Installation Process**<br><br>Mains powered lighting requires multiple tradespeople to install including traffic management, trenching and cabling plus an electrician to connect. | **Simple Installation Process**<br><br>Installation process that requires less technical person on site and helps you avoid the expense on concrete cutting, cabling and trenching for mains power. |
| **Lifetime Cost**  | **Low Cost – Requires Frequent Replacement**<br><br>Replacing an external light fitting every few years does not make financial sense. Equipment hire plus the environmental cost of low quality products should be considered before purchasing. | **Higher Upfront Cost – No Replacement Required**<br><br>Requires almost no maintenance for +5 years. Replacement parts such as batteries are available and stocked locally. |
| **Support**  | **Limited / No Ongoing Support**<br><br>No supports means paying an electrician if you encounter a problem. Replacement parts could also be difficult to source meaning you may end up replacing the entire fixture. | **Local Technical and After Sales Support**<br><br>Technical and ongoing support provided at no additional cost under warranty. Local support team able to provide assistance. |

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Our solar range comprises of 3 main types; Solar Street Lighting, Solar Flood Lights and Solar Bollards all of which comprise of optimised components and the very latest technology.

✅ No running costs
✅ 5 Year warranty (3 years for the battery)
✅ Renewable energy
✅ High durability and quality components
✅ 5000K CCT as standard
✅ Street Lights and Bollards available in Dark Skies approved CCT 2200-3000K

With its unpredictable weather patterns and limited daylight hours in the winter, the UK can greatly benefit from solar lighting (if the correct solution is chosen, that's where we come in). By harnessing the power of the sun and using the very highest quality solutions, solar lighting provides a sustainable, reliable and renewable source of energy for your external lighting needs.

## Street Lighting

Designed to fit existing 76mm pole/columns
Pedestrian or Street light options available
Available in Dark Skies approved CCT
Product shown is Solaris 360 30W.

## Bollards

Floor and direct buried mounting solution
Heights between 30-100mm
All 5000K as standard or Dark Skies CCT available
Product shown is VDL-00180cm.

## Flood Lights

Commercial grade long life power option
Solution to replace traditional 100W lights
Flexible Installation Methods.
Product shown is SLK-15

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