

Refuge at Whitehall HOA PV Solar Standards

Based on the decisions of prior board members and to ensure The Refuge at Whitehall maintains the aesthetical beauty we have a come to appreciate, the current board adopts these guidelines to allow the use of solar energy in our neighborhood. The following guidelines are written to ensure a continued uniform installation and design of solar energy systems within The Refuge.

1. Homeowners should first consider all existing structures and landscaping prior to submitting for approval of proposed solar system.
2. Plans must be preapproved by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) prior to any installation.
3. The location of solar panels is to be placed on the rear-facing side of the roof. The rear facing roof-mounted array must still not be visible from street side view. Flush-mounted panels (i.e. – the plane of the array is parallel to the roof) on any roof facing a street will not be allowed. If panels are installed on a side or rear roof, the array may be tilted or raised if a variance is granted. No solar panels may be placed on the front-side of any home within The Refuge.
4. All components of the solar system should be integrated into the design of the home. The color of the solar system components should generally conform to the color of the roof shingles to the extent practical. Solar “shingles” that mimic the look of a composite shingle are acceptable but should match the color of the current roof shingles as much as is practical.
5. *Pursuant to the 2017 NEC, and North Charleston Code Enforcement authorities, the installation of all solar systems shall only be done by licensed installers. Applications submitted to the ARB 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. Photos of the roof area where the array will be mounted.
 - 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.
 - d. Where possible, provide photos of similar existing systems as examples.
6. 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.
7. The highest point of a solar panel array will be lower than the ridge of the roof where it is attached.
8. All painted surfaces will be kept in good repair.

9. Trees within the Refuge may be moderately trimmed to allow for solar panel installation; however, no tree will be removed for the sole purpose of installing a solar system.

Helpful suggestions when looking for a solar contractor

The Refuge at Whitehall HOA suggest the following advice when selecting a solar contractor.

- Ensure the company you select for your solar project is the same company that will perform the work installing your solar system.
- Ensure the company you select for your solar project is license and insured and is willing to provide you copies of their license/policies or the phone number to their broker or agent if requested.
- Ensure the company you select for your solar project is the same company that will warranty and service your solar system.
- Make sure you check with the Better Business Bureau, Google reviews and other means of ensuring you have made the best choice when it comes to local solar providers.
- Ensure the contract matches your installation. Make sure you are getting the equipment installed that you have purchased.