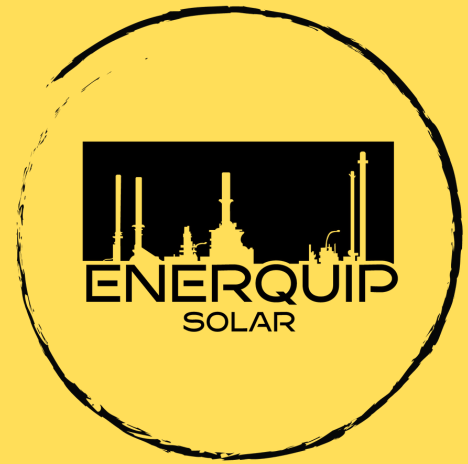


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Does solar water heating system work on cloudy days?

Solar water heating is done by the energy received from the Sun. If the energy input is reduced or cut off by clouds the heating of water is reduced. All solar systems have back up heating devices for meeting these contingencies. In most of the solar water heating systems, the hot water heated on previous day, is used in the morning of the next day. It will be known by the evening if heating during the day has not taken place, and auxiliary heating can be switched on for heating in the night.

What is the life of the solar water heating system?

The solar water heaters are generally expected to last 15 Years, but solar water heating systems installed in 83-84 are still functional in most of the places. If water quality is not a problem we can expect solar water heating systems to last easily for 30-40 years. Some preventive maintenance for protection of exposed surfaces and pumps, valves, back- up systems and plumbing etc may be required, as for other systems in a building.

Does the output from solar water heating system decrease with age?

The output from the Solar Water heating system may marginally decrease over a period of time but the decrease is normally not very large.

What are the regular maintenance requirements?

The surface of the collector must be periodically cleaned to remove dust from the top surface to get optimum output from the system. Occasional observation of the solar water heating system to eliminate any plumbing leakages may help. The exposed metal surfaces may be examined for any damage to paint etc after monsoon period to avoid further damage. Some rubber or plastic components may not last beyond 10 years and may require replacement. Auxiliary heating elements also do not last through the life of the Solar Water Heating system and require replacement at times.

Is it necessary to have a south facing shadow free area for installation of solar system?

Solar systems perform best in winter when installed facing south at optimum angle. The variation by 15 degrees to east or west does not affect the output significantly.