

INFORMATION

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Solar Energy and Your Home: Questions and Answers

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About a million Americans now live in solar homes. For the most part they are pleased with their solar energy systems and have become enthusiastic supporters of solar energy.

This factsheet provides a basic introduction to solar heating and cooling systems. It is intended for the many other homeowners who could benefit from living in a solar home.

Q. How Do Solar Energy Systems Work?

A. Solar radiation is absorbed by a

collector and placed in storage. From there the stored heat is distributed to your living space. The performance of each operation is maintained and monitored by either automatic or manual controls. An auxiliary heater provides backup for times when the solar system is not working.

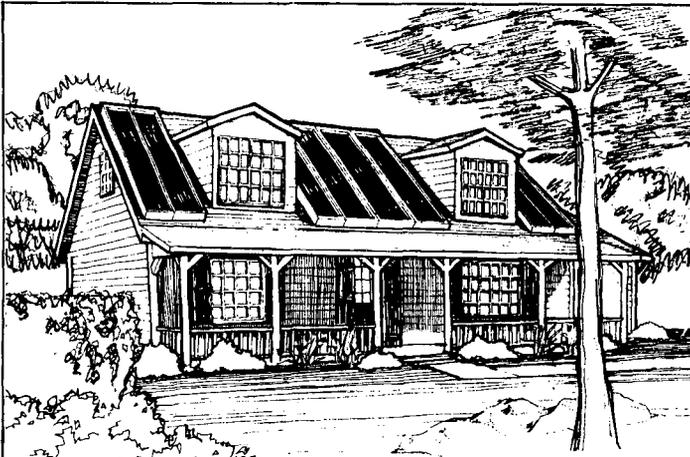
Q. What Kinds Of Solar Energy Systems Are There?

A. There are two basic types: active and passive. *Active* systems are divided into liquid and air systems. They use pumps and pipes (or fans

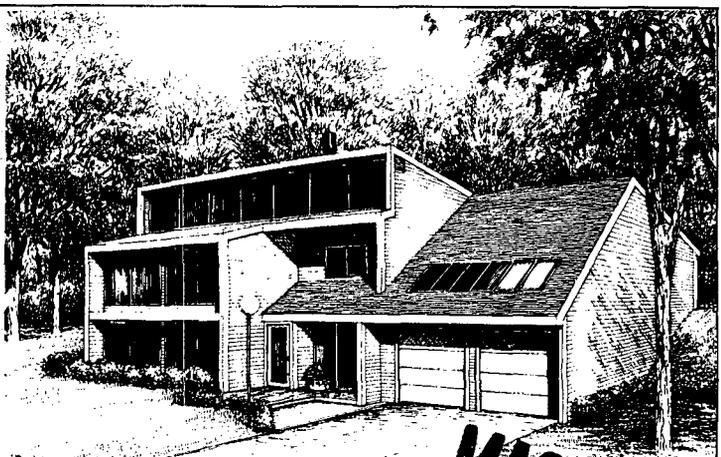
and ducts) to carry heat from the collectors to storage, and from storage to the rooms of the house. *Passive* systems use the building itself to collect and store solar heat. Large windows act as solar collectors, and thick walls or floors store some of the heat for later use. Sunspaces that collect solar energy for the main living area are one of the most popular passive systems.

Q. What Should I Consider Before Deciding to Invest In Solar?

A. You should look carefully at the.



A home equipped with an active solar energy system



A passive solar home

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