



Solar Contractor Licensing In Florida

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Solar Contractor Licensing

- **There are two Solar Contractor categories:**
 - Certified Solar Contractor (CV)
 - Residential Solar Water Heating Specialty Contractor (CW)
 - Both categories are regulated by the Florida Construction Industries Licensing Board

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ **The CV license:**

- Scope of work covers residential and commercial solar water heating, solar pool heating and photovoltaic systems.
- Is exempt from subcontracting certain roofing, plumbing and electrical work on residential installations.
- May be required to subcontract roofing, plumbing and electrical work on commercial installations if required by the building department.

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ The CW license:

- Scope of work is limited to solar water heating and solar pool heating systems on residences only.
- Are not authorized to install PV systems.
- Are not authorized to install solar water heating or pool heating systems on commercial buildings.
- May be required to subcontract electrical, plumbing and roofing work if so required by the building department
- The license is no longer available, but those with it can continue to operate

Solar Contractor Licensing

- **Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:**
 - Plumbing Contractors
 - Can install residential and commercial solar water and pool heating systems
 - May be required to subcontract roofing and electrical work if required by the building department
 - Cannot call themselves “Solar Contractors”

Solar Contractor Licensing

- **Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:**
 - Pool and Spa Contractors
 - Can install residential and commercial “packaged” pool heating systems
 - Solar pool heating systems have been defined in an Attorney General Opinion as packaged pool heaters
 - May be required to subcontract roofing, electrical and plumbing tasks
 - Cannot call themselves “Solar Contractors”

Solar Contractor Licensing

- **Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:**
 - Electrical Contractors
 - Can install residential and commercial PV systems
 - Regulated by the Electrical Contractors Licensing Board
 - May be required to subcontract roofing tasks if required by the building department
 - Cannot call themselves “Solar Contractors”

Solar Contractor Licensing

- **Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:**
 - Local Certificate of Competency (RX)
 - Contractor license issued by a county and registered with the Construction Industry Licensing Board
 - Typically only available for solar water and pool heating
 - Must subcontract roofing and electrical work if required by the building department
 - May only operate within the county issuing the license unless reciprocity granted

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Methods of Licensure

- **Registration:** The applicant has taken and passed a local competency examination and can practice only within that locale.
- **Certification:** The applicant has taken and passed an examination and can practice throughout Florida.

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Requirements for Certification

- Pass the state certification exams
 - Business and Finance Exam
 - Offered daily via Internet
 - State certified contractors need only take the general trade knowledge exam and are not required to take the business and finance exam
 - General Trade Knowledge Exam
 - Was 40% solar water heating, 40% solar pool heating and 20% photovoltaics
 - Changed to 25% solar water heating, 25% solar pool heating and 50% photovoltaics
 - Offered in February, June and October (30 day application deadline)
 - Test sites are in Miami, Orlando and Tallahassee

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Requirements for Certification:

- Meet the education and experience requirements
 - Bachelor's degree in construction field + 1 year experience
 - 3 years of college credit + 1 year experience as foreman
 - 2 years of college credit + 1 year experience as workman + 1 year experience as foreman
 - 4 years experience as workman or foreman (1 year of which must be as foreman)

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Requirements for Certification:

- Experience must be in the field of the license category
- An applicant for the solar contractor license must have experience verified by a state certified contractor in the following categories-
 - General, Building, Residential, Solar, Pool/Spa (Commercial or Residential)
- If you don't have the experience, don't take the exam

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Requirements for Certification:

- Apply for the license
 - http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/pro/cilb/documents/initial_issuance_licensure_certified_contractor_application_package_enterable.pdf
 - Includes experience history, basis for qualification, verification of experience affidavits, personal information, license history, financial statement, and certification of insurance and workers compensation coverage.

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Qualified Business License

- Required if contractor is operating as a business organization (partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, including fictitious name)
- Not required if operating as a sole proprietor.

Solar Contractor Licensing

■ Continuing Education Requirements:

- 14 hours of CILB approved courses must be completed every two years prior to license renewal.
- Applies to certified and registered contractors.
- 1 hour must deal with workplace safety.
- 1 hour must deal with workers compensation
- 1 hour must deal with business practices
- 1 hour must deal with laws and rule
- 1 hour must deal with the Florida Building Code



Do You Have Any Questions?

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