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Rising Energy Bills, Power Cuts and a VAT Deadline: Is It Time to Rethink Your Home's Energy?

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For homeowners in Epsom, Ewell and across Surrey, energy is back in the headlines.

Conflict in the Middle East has unsettled wholesale energy markets. Household bills have risen, with further increases forecast. The Government has also highlighted power outages as a risk worth preparing for.

Meanwhile, a significant change to the VAT treatment of home energy installations is approaching.

Against this backdrop, solar panels and battery storage are becoming about more than reducing electricity bills. They're about giving homeowners greater control over how their properties generate, store and use energy.

More control over rising energy costs

The energy price cap increased in October 2026, and further rises are forecast for January.

Solar panels allow a household to generate some of its own electricity, reducing the amount purchased from the grid. A battery can store surplus generation for use later, including during expensive evening periods.

The financial benefit depends on the home's electricity use, system design, tariffs and installation costs. It's a long-term investment, not a guaranteed return.

Could your home keep the lights on during a power cut?

Government resilience planning has brought renewed attention to electricity disruption, although widespread blackouts remain unlikely.

Solar panels and batteries can contribute to household resilience, but there's an important distinction: most conventional installations automatically disconnect during a power cut.

To maintain electricity to selected household circuits during an outage, a system needs specific backup capability and appropriate electrical design.

For homeowners concerned about keeping essential equipment running, that's a question worth asking before installation.

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