

WEST VANCOUVER IS BECOMING "SOLAR HOT WATER READY"

If you are building a new home please note that as of June 21, 2011 there is a new requirement in the BC Building Code that applies to West Vancouver homes.

WHAT IS REQUIRED? The "Solar Hot Water Ready Provision" requires all new single family homes be built to accommodate future installation of a solar hot water system. Specifically, the following is required:

- An area of roof or exterior wall surface of not less than 7.29 square meters (78.5 square feet) designated for *future* installation of solar collectors for a solar domestic hot water system. This area would be designed to accommodate the anticipated load, but no less than an additional load of 0.2kpa in addition to design loads required by the BC Building Code.
- At least one straight, continuous conduit run that extends from the area directly adjacent to the primary water heater to the designated area for a future solar hot water system (either accessible attic space adjacent to the roof area, the roof area itself, or the exterior wall surface directly adjacent to the area). The minimum diameter for a single run is 100mm (50mm if two conduit runs are provided).

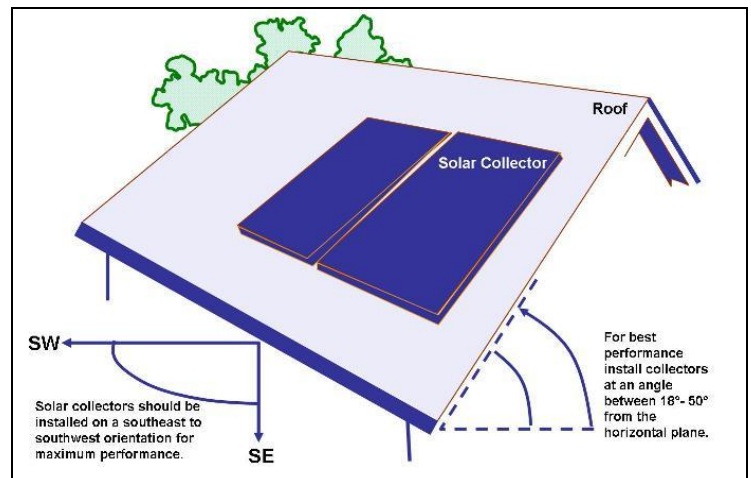
**The Building Code does not require a solar hot water system to be installed. Roof penetration is not required.*

WHEN WILL THIS BE REQUIRED? Effective as of June 21, 2011, **details must be shown on your drawings submitted for a building permit.**

Approval of solar hot water ready provisions does not imply approval for installation of solar technologies. Solar panel installation will necessitate additional zoning and design considerations and you should contact the planning department prior to installation. Installation will also require a separate building permit.

WHY WEST VANCOUVER? Generally speaking, the majority of our North Shore municipalities have a southern exposure that provides a significant opportunity for passive solar access and orientation. This orientation presents other opportunities such as active solar energy capture. Despite having a significant forested character, and a reputation for clouds and rainfall, *the North Shore's climate is actually on average hotter and sunnier than many European cities that have had significant uptake on solar hot water heating.* The potential for a successful "Solar Ready North Shore" is great.

DOES SOLAR WORK WHEN IT'S CLOUDY? To answer this and many more questions about Solar Hot Water systems; or to learn about financial incentives, visit: www.solarbc.ca. To calculate the solar potential of your home, visit: <http://solarrating.ca>.



Installation of solar collectors are not required. But if you decide to install solar collectors, the following are good guidelines:

- Install on a southeast to southwest orientation; and at an angle of between 18°- 50° from the horizontal plane for best performance.