7 Solar + Battery Mistakes Resorts in Thailand Should Avoid

A practical pre-installation checklist for resort, hotel, villa estate and hospitality owners in Thailand.

Use this before you request quotes, compare EPC proposals, or add batteries to a resort solar project.

Prepared by Bustan Energy

Solar and battery planning for Thailand hospitality properties — with assessment-first thinking, transparent assumptions, and local-execution awareness.

A practical pre-installation checklist for resort, hotel, villa estate and hospitality owners in Thailand.

Who this is for

This checklist is for hospitality properties with meaningful electricity costs, guest-comfort expectations, and operational risk from outages or unstable power. It is especially relevant for Koh Phangan, Koh Samui, Koh Tao, Surat Thani and coastal/island properties.

Mistake 1 — Starting with a quote before analyzing the electricity bill

A solar quote can look professional and still be based on incomplete assumptions. Before comparing panel brands or system prices, review your actual electricity bills and ask:

- What is the monthly bill range across high and low season?
- How much usage happens during daylight hours?
- Which loads are always on: refrigeration, pumps, laundry, Wi-Fi, security, kitchens?
- Which loads are guest-driven: air-conditioning, hot water, pool systems, lighting?

What to do instead: Start with bill review and load assumptions. A good proposal should explain how the system size connects to your actual consumption.

Mistake 2 — Assuming batteries always pay back

Batteries can be valuable, but they are not automatically the right financial decision. A battery may help with outages, critical loads, generator reduction or better self-consumption. It may also add major cost without enough benefit.

Ask before buying a battery:

- What loads must stay on during an outage?
- How long do those loads need backup?
- Are outages frequent enough to justify storage?
- Is the battery for savings, resilience, guest experience, or all three?
- What happens if the battery is sized too small or too large?

What to do instead: Treat battery sizing as a business decision, not an accessory.

Mistake 3 — Ignoring hospitality-specific loads

A resort is not a normal building. Air-conditioning, pools, pumps, kitchens, laundry and refrigeration can dominate the energy profile. Occupancy also changes everything.

Common overlooked loads:

- Pool pumps and water systems
- Kitchen and cold storage
- Laundry
- Guest-room air-conditioning
- Spa/wellness equipment
- Staff housing or back-of-house areas

- EV charging or future expansion

What to do instead: Map major loads before sizing the system. If you have interval data, use it. If not, estimate carefully.

Mistake 4 — Comparing installer prices without comparing assumptions

The lowest quote may not be the best quote. Two proposals can use different assumptions about tariffs, self-consumption, export, panel degradation, maintenance, inverter replacement, battery cycling and uptime.

Compare:

- System size and expected yield
- Self-consumption assumptions
- Export assumptions, if any
- Equipment warranties
- Mounting and corrosion protection
- Monitoring and maintenance
- Payback calculation inputs
- What is excluded from the price

What to do instead: Ask every provider to show their assumptions in plain language.

Mistake 5 — Forgetting rainy season, occupancy and day/night usage

Solar production and resort consumption do not stay flat all year. Rainy season, occupancy, business hours, special events and air-conditioning patterns all matter.

Questions to ask:

- Does our highest bill happen when solar production is strongest?
- How much load happens after sunset?
- Do low-season bills change the payback picture?
- Do we plan to expand rooms, kitchens, pools or EV charging?

What to do instead: Use conservative assumptions and phase the project if needed.

Mistake 6 — Treating maintenance and monitoring as an afterthought

A system that performs well on day one can underperform later if it is not monitored, cleaned, inspected and maintained — especially in coastal, humid or salty environments.

Check:

- Who monitors production?
- Who responds if output drops?
- How often are panels cleaned?

- How are inverter alerts handled?
- Are staff trained to understand the monitoring app?
- What maintenance is included and what costs extra?

What to do instead: Include O&M and monitoring in the project decision from the beginning.

Mistake 7 — Not checking utility and compliance questions early

Grid connection, export rules, PPA/ESCO structures and approvals can depend on current utility requirements, project structure and applicable Thai regulations.

Before making promises internally, verify:

- PEA / utility connection path
- Export assumptions
- Metering requirements
- Ownership / lease / PPA structure
- Engineering and safety requirements
- Any legal or regulatory review needed before signing

What to do instead: Keep public and internal savings assumptions cautious until the utility/compliance path is clear.

The simple next step

Before you commit to an EPC quote or battery package, get a focused Solar + Battery Assessment.

Bustan Energy can review your bill, property profile, solar fit, battery fit, risks, assumptions and next step.

Start here: https://wa.me/66946692011

Important note

Savings estimates depend on tariff, consumption profile, roof/site conditions, equipment selection, operating behavior and utility requirements. Final proposals require a technical site survey and appropriate regulatory/compliance review where relevant.

Ready for clarity?
Send your bill and property details on WhatsApp: +66 94 669 2011
https://wa.me/66946692011