

Beginner Guide: Deploying the Solar Quote Tool on Your Server (cPanel + MySQL)

What You Need

1. Access to your cPanel hosting account
2. Your hosting must support:
 - Node.js (check in cPanel > Setup Node.js App)
 - MySQL or MariaDB (enabled by default on cPanel)
3. Files provided:
 - solar-quote-tool-full-mysql-package.zip

Step 1: Upload Files

1. Login to cPanel
2. Open File Manager
3. Go to your home directory
4. Click Upload and select solar-quote-tool-full-mysql-package.zip
5. After upload, right-click > Extract the ZIP

Step 2: Create Database

1. Go back to cPanel home
2. Click MySQL Databases
3. Create a database: solar_quotes
4. Create a user: solar_user with a strong password
5. Add the user to the database with All Privileges

Write down:

- Database name

- Username
- Password

Step 3: Open Terminal in cPanel

1. Go to cPanel > Terminal
2. Type: `cd ~/solar-quote-tool`
3. Then type: `bash import-quotes-schema.sh`
4. Enter your DB details when asked

Step 4: Setup Node.js App

1. Go to cPanel > Setup Node.js App
2. Click Create Application
 - Choose Node.js version 18
 - Application root: `solar-quote-tool`
 - Startup file: `server.js`
3. Click Create and wait

Step 5: Install Everything

1. Back in the Terminal, type: `bash install-solar-quote-tool.sh`
2. It will:
 - Unzip your app
 - Install required software
 - Build your tool

Step 6: Make It Accessible

1. Open File Manager > `public_html`
2. Create or edit a file called `.htaccess`

3. Paste this:

```
RewriteEngine On
```

```
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} ^/quote
```

```
RewriteRule ^quote/(.*)$ http://127.0.0.1:3000/$1 [P,L]
```

4. Now your quote tool is live at: <https://yourdomain.com/quote>

Done!

You now have a live solar quote tool + admin dashboard!

Optional: Auto-Restart on Reboot (Advanced)

Only do this if you're familiar with SSH or server setup:

```
npm install -g pm2
```

```
pm2 start server.js --name solar-quote-tool
```

```
pm2 save
```

```
pm2 startup
```

Need Help?

Ask your hosting provider to:

- Enable Node.js

- Enable Terminal

- Help import the SQL file

Or share this guide with your developer.