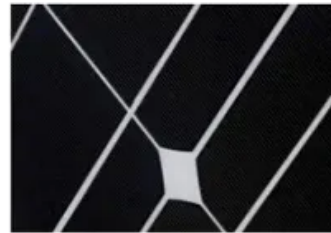
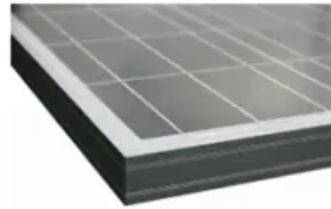


Cost of going solar





Overview

The average cost of solar panels ranges from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per watt installed, with most homeowners paying between \$15,000 and \$35,000 for a complete system before incentives. After applying the 30% federal tax credit, net costs typically range from \$10,500 to \$24,500.

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Take control of your energy costs with solar power. Solar panels generate “free” electricity, but installing a system still costs money. A typical American household needs a 10-kilowatt (kW) system to adequately power their home, which costs \$28,241 in 2025. That price effectively drops to \$19,873.

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The cost of installing solar is far less intimidating when you understand the various components, how savings are generated, and different ways to lower your cash outlay through financing. In this article, we'll explore: Do solar panels really save you money?

As always, our goal is to empower you.

It costs around \$30,000 to install solar panels. That's a big number, but incentives usually lower it significantly. The average U.S. solar shopper needs about 11 kilowatts (kW) of home solar to cover their electricity usage. Based on thousands of quotes in the EnergySage Marketplace, you'll pay.

Get solar power system costs based on your location, roof, power usage, and current local offers. Published: August 2025 Solar panels cost about \$21,816 on average when purchased with cash or \$26,004 when purchased with a loan



for a 7.2 kW system. While that price tag seems steep, the electricity.

Residential solar system pricing ranges widely, from \$15,000 to \$25,000 (≈ 9.5 months of continuous work at a \$15/hour wage) on average for a moderately-sized system before incentives. Here's a breakdown of what influences costs: System size - Smaller 3-5 kilowatt (kW) systems can cost \$9,000 to. How much do solar panels cost?

The price of solar panels changes depending on where you live, but the average for installation is just under \$29,000 or \$2.75 per watt. On the high end, we talked to a solar customer in Hawaii who spent \$100,000 going solar. Dion in Nevada said their 10-kW system cost about \$20,000, which is about the national average price for a 7-kW system.

How do you calculate the cost of a solar system?

Solar panel costs are usually measured in the cost per watt of solar installed. However, solar system sizes are measured in kilowatts (kW). To calculate the total price of installing a home solar system, you'll need the system size to be in watts. To convert kilowatts to watts, all you need to do is multiply the system size in kW by 1,000.

How much does a commercial solar system cost?

Commercial solar installations are a great way for companies to lower energy costs. Generally, installing solar panels on businesses costs a bit less per watt because the systems are larger, but the total costs will be higher. In 2025, the average cost for commercial solar panels is just about \$2.00 per watt.

Are solar installations cheap?

Solar installations aren't cheap, but the actual equipment is a relatively small part of the total cost. It's only 35% of your total installation cost, according to the US Department of Energy. Soft costs, also known as the hidden costs of installing solar, are nonhardware costs, and they make up 65% of your total solar costs, according to the DOE.

How much does it cost to install a solar system?

NerdWallet estimates the average cost of installing an average-size home solar system to be about \$30,000 (≈ 11.4 months locked to your job at \$15/hour) before federal tax credits and incentives. With the federal solar tax credit, this cost can be reduced to about \$21,000 (≈ 8 months working without



a break on a \$15/hour salary).

How much does a solar system cost per watt?

As of publishing, the average cost per watt is \$2.84. Most solar companies set the price according to the solar system's wattage. A solar installation's “cost per watt” is a little like the “price per square foot” when you buy a house. It helps compare the value of solar energy systems in different sizes.



Cost of going solar



[The Cost of Going Solar , SaveOnEnergy](#)

Key Points The average cost of residential solar has decreased by about 69% since 2003. The Residential Clean Energy Credit is a 30% tax credit off the cost of a solar system through 2034. In 2004, solar panels cost ...

The Real Cost of Going Solar in California in 2025 , CEC

But residential solar panels are still an investment, and your costs can vary depending on many factors. Here's what you need to know about solar panel costs in California and what you can do to save. Average Cost of ...



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Solar panel installation costs have dropped dramatically over the past decade, making clean energy more accessible than ever for homeowners. While the national average cost ranges from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for a typical ...

[Solar Panel Cost in Arizona \(2025 Local Savings ...](#)

In this guide to the average cost of solar panel systems in Arizona, you'll learn: How much does the average solar system cost in Arizona? How can you save money by going solar in Arizona? Are there any ongoing ...



TRUE COST OF GOING SOLAR

This is the best time to go solar. But here's an issue most homeowners face before installing solar panels for home: they are not sure how much they will have to pay, what will be the mode of payment, and whether at all it will be a good ...



[Solar Panel Cost in 2025: How to Estimate The Cost ...](#)

Solar Panel Cost With utility rates rising and the 30% solar tax credit going away at the end of the year, installing solar in 2025 offers more cost-savings potential than ever before. So, what's standing in the way of American ...



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