



# Cost to install solar panels on roof

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According to our solar experts, solar panels cost about \$19,000 to install in the United States, on average. While the price tag seems steep, incentives and payment options help make the cost of going solar easier...

The average 5-kilowatt (kW) solar panel system is \$14,210 before considering any financial incentives. However, a typical American household needs a system closer to 10 kW to adequately power their home, which costs...

The cost of solar panels ranges anywhere from \$8,500 to \$30,500, with the average 6kW solar system falling around \$12,700. It's important to note that these prices are before incentives and tax credits are applied. We found that solar panel prices vary based on where you live, the size of the system, the type of solar panels and more. With so many factors that go into the final price tag of your solar panels, knowing exactly where you might incur costs can help you budget for solar panels so that you can see the biggest energy savings.

We've broken down how much solar panels cost by analyzing a variety of cost databases and retailers to help you get started. **Featured Partners**

As you're budgeting for a solar panel system, you may come across three types of solar panels. Each one can come with its own price tag, so consider the following price differences before you choose.

Monocrystalline solar panels cost between \$1 and \$1.50 per watt on average and are usually the most popular choice. As the name suggests, monocrystalline cells are made with one silicon crystal. These lab-grown crystals--called ingots--are cut into thin octagonal discs that are neatly attached to the panel for maximum efficiency. This higher efficiency comes at a cost, as most monocrystalline solar panels cost more to purchase and install than their counterparts.

The average cost for polycrystalline solar panels ranges from \$0.90 to \$1.50 per watt. Both polycrystalline and monocrystalline solar panels are photovoltaic (PV) solar panels. They convert sunlight into electricity. Unlike monocrystalline cells, however, the polycrystalline variety is comprised of fragmented silicon crystals cut into wafer-like shapes. This shortcut makes for a cheaper product that is faster to produce but also less efficient.

Thin-film solar panels cost between \$0.50 and \$1.50 per watt, putting them at the lowest end of the price range for solar panels. These solar panels also utilize photovoltaic materials, only most thin-film cells use amorphous silicon, which isn't crystalline. Thin-film solar panels are cheaper to produce and use readily available materials, making them better for the environment.

The panels tend to have a lower efficiency and therefore require more space to generate the same amount of energy. They also only last between 10 to 20 years, which is 10 to 15 years less than PV panels. Still, if you're



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on the go, we believe thin-film solar panels are a good fit for RVs because of their lightweight properties.

Depending on which state you live in, your average 6kW solar panel system will cost between \$10,200 and \$15,200 to install after accounting for the 30% solar tax credit. However, we know that every home has its own energy demands, and prices for solar panels can quickly increase or decrease based on the size of your system. Here's a breakdown of solar system costs by size.

The total cost of your solar panel installation can vary depending on the number of watts, amount of sunlight and local incentives. Let's break down how each factor can impact the cost of going solar.

Solar panels cost between \$2.40 and \$3.60 per watt including installation. Therefore, just how much you pay for your system depends on how many watts you need to keep your home powered.

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