



Electric car ports

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Stadiums are increasingly going solar to power their massive electricity needs with sustainable energy. This is what drove Washington D.C.'s Audi Field, home to D.C. United, to install a PV system.

Solar carports are the epitome of a functional structure, providing both shade and power. They can take on any number of configurations, but all of them share certain considerations ranging from how you'll connect them to an energy system to who should build them. Here's our list of answers to the questions you should ask yourself when deciding if a solar carport makes sense for you.

Interested in understanding the impact solar can have on your home? Enter some basic information below, and we'll instantly provide a free estimate of your energy savings.

If you're considering solar, brush up on how many panels you need, what angle and direction will produce the most electricity and what local regulations and incentives you should consider.

A carport is an open-sided structure that shelters cars from the elements. Think of it as a garage without walls. A solar carport is one where the roof holds or is made of solar panels.

A solar carport can be a great multi-purpose structure to have on your property that's less complex than building a garage. It can be as simple as installing a rack of standard ground-mounted solar panels as you would for a typical installation, but raising them up to a height of six or seven feet in order to accommodate parking a vehicle underneath your new array.

This creates a structure to support solar energy production while also shading and sheltering a vehicle. From this basic concept you can add as much functionality as you want, from batteries and charging stations for an electric vehicle to more structure that could allow your carport to function as a traditional garage or workshop.

Ultimately, if you're interested in renewable energy and in need of some extra shade, shelter or both on your property, a solar carport is a win-win option.

Because it doesn't require building a new mounting structure, rooftop solar is typically going to be cheaper than ground-mounted solar array or a solar carport. But there are times when a solar carport might make the most sense.

While installing solar on a rooftop makes it cheaper, installing it elsewhere protects your roof. Both roofs and solar panels are products with a long useful life. Solar panels are commonly warrantied for 20 to 25 years and can continue to operate after the warranty expires. While panels can be removed and reinstalled, that can be

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costly and increase the risk of damage to the roof. Solar companies offer warranties protecting against leaky roofs, but they often expire before the warranties on the panels. Putting up a solar carport removes the roof from the equation.

Sometimes a roof isn't suited to installing solar panels: It's too shaded, facing the wrong direction or has too many obstructions. In this case, a carport might be a better solution.

There is value in your solar panels not only generating energy but also shading your car. A carport doesn't offer the security of a garage but does provide shelter from snow and the sun.

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