Home solar energy storage system

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Naming a single "best solar battery" would be like trying to name "The Best Car" - it largely depends on what you"re looking for. Some homeowners are looking for backup power, some are motivated to decrease their reliance on dirty electricity from the grid, and a growing number - especially in California - need battery storage to maximize the savings potential of their solar system.

Backup power for grid outages is traditionally one of the most desired features of a solar battery. While most batteries have this feature, a few stand above the rest in 2024.

If you"re looking to back up everything during a grid outage (including central air conditioning), the Franklin Home Power system is clearly the preferred choice among Solar "s network of battery installers.

By combining three 13.6 kWh aPower batteries with a single aGate controller, the Home Power system can provide up to 15 kW of continuous power and 40.8 kWh of usable energy, and a single aPower has a peak power output of 9 kW to handle large surges like an AC or freezer kicking on.

At 408 pounds, a 13.6 kWH aPower battery is significantly heavier than comparable models. For example, at 359 pounds, LG"s 14.4 kWh HBC battery is over 50 pounds lighter.

In addition to the comfort of a globally recognized brand name, the LG ESS Home 8 offers 14.4 kWh of usable capacity, 7.5 kW of continuous power, and 9 kW of peak power, which makes it suitable for large backup loads during grid outages.

The major advantage of DC-coupled batteries is much higher round-trip efficiency, which can add up to longer backup power and greater bill reductions. Higher efficiency becomes especially beneficial if you"re charging an EV from your solar battery.

It"s worth noting that DC-coupled batteries can be difficult to add to an existing solar system. So, if you plan on going the DC solar battery route, it"s best to install the battery at the same time as the solar system.

What we like: The Panasonic EverVolt has a hybrid inverter that allows it to be AC- or DC-coupled, which makes it a viable option for both existing and future solar systems. It comes in three sizes - 10, 15, and 18 kWh (nameplate power) - which can be combined to accommodate various system sizes and offers a whopping 7.6 kW of continuous power when paired with solar panels.

With 97.5% roundtrip efficiency, the LG RESU Prime appears to be the most efficient solar battery on the market. If you"re load shifting on a daily basis (because of time of use rates or unfavorable export rates) that extra 7-10% efficiency quickly adds up to greater bill savings than a typical AC-coupled battery.

Drawbacks: The two apparent drawbacks of the LG RESU Prime battery are a relatively short warranty life (10 years or 32 MWh) and the fact that as a DC-coupled battery, it is quite difficult to add to an existing solar system.

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