



Best 12v battery for solar

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12-volt batteries and solar panels are both common items in any arsenal. While some users may use 6v, 24v, or even 48v battery setups, 12v batteries are the most common and the easiest to set up and manage, especially for smaller solar setups.

If you've been wondering about 12v batteries and the right solar panels to use for them, you've come to the right place! In the following article, we'll dive deep into all you need to know about 12v batteries and solar panels.

Technically, all you need to charge a 12v battery is a solar panel with a 12v rating. This can be any solar panel, although the bigger it's, the quicker your battery will charge.

Anything under 5-10 watts is not enough, as these will only "trickle charge" your battery very slowly. In general, 12v panels are only available up to a rating of around 200-watts; from there up they are usually 24v or 48v.

There are various sizes of 12v batteries available, 100ah being the most common. For this reason, the amp hour rating of the 12v battery you have and how quickly you want it to charge fully will determine what size solar panel you need.

Solar panels are rated and tested at 77°F; which is the industry standard. However, solar panels operate between 60°F and 95°F. So the following calculations are based on the optimal environment; variations will occur.

Typically, a 100-watt panel produces around 6ah per hour under ideal conditions or roughly 30ah-40ah per day. If you're charging a 100ah battery from a flat, it will take about two days to charge the battery fully.

Technically, you can connect a solar panel directly to a 12v battery as long as it's not more than 5 watts, but connecting any higher-rated panels is not a good idea.

Solar panel trickle chargers are mainly used to charge 12v car batteries. These chargers charge your battery at a rate equal to the self-discharge rate of the battery, which helps keep your battery charged at the desired level.

These panels are usually no more than 4-10 watts and simply keep your battery from going dead from the small amount of power consumed by small clocks, alarms, or indicators in your car while it's not in use for long periods.



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Depending on the ah rating of your 12v battery, you may wonder what size solar panel is best to pair it with and how long it's likely to last. As mentioned earlier, it's difficult to estimate how long a particular size battery will last, depending on what you use it for.

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Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

