

Best home solar panels 2024

Our solar experts, with help from Dr David Sprake PhD, evaluated over 50 solar panels and in July 2024, conducted a survey of more than 1,500 Independent readers who own solar systems to find the best solar panels in the UK. Our experts considered key factors including solar panel costs, efficiency, warranties, and reliability.

All the best solar panels for UK homes we tested have power outputs of 420W or higher, efficiency ratings above 20 per cent, and advanced technologies enhancing their efficiency and durability. All the solar panel providers in this guide also scored 90% or above for customer satisfaction in terms of energy production, cost savings, maintenance requirements and ongoing costs, according to our survey*.

The Independent Advisor star ratings for solar panels is calculated based on weighted factors: durability and reliability (35 per cent), performance (35 per cent), and customer satisfaction (30 per cent). The customer satisfaction scores are derived from a recent survey of over 1,500 Independent readers who own solar panels*.

The Maxeon 7 panel scores highly in our performance, durability and customer satisfaction categories, offering an excellent 40-year warranty, low degradation rate, and good efficiency. Together, these factors are the reason the SunPower panel is our Independent Advisor top pick.

Maxeon 7 panels also have maximum power point tracking (MPPT). This optimises the solar panel's output by adjusting the electrical load to ensure maximum efficiency, even in fluctuating sunlight or temperatures.

Each SunPower Maxeon solar panel works independently with its own in-built Enphase microinverter, which boosts the system's power by about 50 per cent. An inverter converts the direct current (DC) produced by solar panels into alternating current (AC), usable in your home.

These innovative features, combined with a lead-free design containing recycled materials boosts the Maxeon's appeal for homeowners. These crack-resistant panels are ideal for all homes, especially those near the coast, as they're designed to withstand corrosion caused by salty air.

The Evo Super Max Series 480W solar panels, Project Solar's newest modules, come with the company's industry-leading warranties for hardware and performance. No other panel matches the Evo Super Max's lifetime product warranty.

Due to their passive emitter and rear contact (PERC) technology, these panels achieve a 6 to 12 per cent increase in energy production. PERC adds an extra layer to the solar cells, boosting the overall efficiency of the panels by converting more daylight into energy.



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Project Solar's innovative drainage corners reduce the amount of maintenance required, but the company doesn't provide any environmental information, such as recycling options or whether the panel is lead-free. The Evo Super Max's sleek black appearance enhances kerb appeal, making it a popular choice despite its high price tag of R350.

While other panels can lose their efficiency quickly, this model is guaranteed to maintain approximately 89 per cent of its initial capacity after decades. This means that if you bought one of these panels today, by 2054, it could still be outperforming many new panels on the market.

At 28kg, the panels are quite heavy, but their high energy output easily compensates for the extra weight. The average solar panel has a power output of 250 to 400W, so JA Solar's 585W panel is well above competitors in that regard. It also has a high efficiency of 22.1 per cent; even in low-light conditions, you can expect a healthy level of energy production.

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