



Calculate inverter size

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Choosing an inverter can be tricky when working out all the various factors involved in this calculation. You want to be sure you have enough power to run all the different appliances when the power goes out and makes sure they run for as long as you need them to.

The size of the inverter required will be determined by the total wattage of the appliances you need to operate and the time they need to run. You also need to add a bit more on to compensate for the startup current and have a wattage cushion;

An inverter is a device that converts DC power to AC power to replicate and produce electric current to power electrical appliances and devices. It is usually a rectangular-shaped steel box containing batteries, charging input, and AC output plugs.

Inverters have a power rating in watts (W), which determines how much power they can supply, and the batteries have an amp-hour rating, which measures how much current (measured in Amps) they can supply for how long before they deplete.

When looking at an inverter to run your entire home from a solar PV System, these are much bigger, but in essence, the principles behind the calculation are the same. Still, these calculations will be done by the PV system installers before they specify the system you need.

Now, don't get put off by these lofty terms; they are simply a measure of the current quality the inverter will output without getting too technical; the better the current quality, the less likely the risk of damage to sensitive equipment.

If you put palatable (drinkable) water through your water faucet and it has a lot of tiny dirt particles, the water quality would not be as good as water coming through your faucets that is already clean and without particles.

Every device, from your laptop to your cellphone charger and fridge, has a power rating in watts; of course, some are higher than others. To ascertain the size of the inverter you need, you first need to know precisely how much power your devices require.



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