



# Flexible solar panels for motorhomes

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Flexible solar panels are a great option for RVs because they are bendable and can be molded to the shape of your trailer. This makes them easier to install on curved roofs and other uneven surfaces.

While flexible solar panels for RV are not as efficient as rigid solar panels, they are still efficient enough to meet the average power needs of most RVers. They are also cheaper and easier to install, making them a good option for budget-minded campers, first-time RV owners, and those who do not travel full-time.

Flexible solar panels for RV are, well, flexible, meaning they are thin and can be bent to the curve of, say, an Airstream. RV flexible solar panels are a bit different from their rigid counterparts, so there are certain advantages and shortcomings you need to consider when choosing to install flexible solar panels on your RV instead of the conventional rigid panels.

Bendability is what makes RV flexible solar panels unique, and in certain cases that alone might be the deal breaker, but you need to consider your daily power requirements and other camping circumstances to decide whether bendable solar panels for RV would be the best choice for your energy needs.

RV flexible solar panels are thinner and much more lightweight than conventional rigid models, so most can be installed on the roof drill-free using only the right type of adhesive. Furthermore, these flexible panels are designed to bend to the curve of an RV like the Airstream.

So while rigid panels and the required mounting brackets would protrude from a curved roof, flexible solar panels will stay flush on the rooftop. This neater setup makes them less prone to physical contact with obstacles on the road, like low hanging tree branches.

The fact that bendable solar panels for RV stick flush to a curved roof means there's no room for air circulation underneath the panel. During the summer, flexible solar panels that are constantly exposed to direct sunlight can overheat and can reach up to 150°F.

A flexible solar panel is always less efficient than a rigid panel of the same size. Firstly, flexible solar panels for RV are much thinner than rigid panels, so they contain far less material for sunlight absorption. Furthermore, flexible solar panels tend to use less efficient semiconductor materials.

While rigid solar panels have roughly 16 to 20 percent efficiency, the number for flexible panels range between 7 and 15 percent efficiency. Another reason for lower efficiency is the aforementioned overheating problem.

This is why while standard panels have a capacity of up to 400 watts, most flexible panels would only offer up



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to 200 watts. There are only a very few options on the market that are rated for 300 watts. This means that to meet the same power requirement, you would generally need more flexible panels.

In general, rigid solar panels are clearly more solidly constructed and thus tend to last longer. That's why the best rigid solar panels on the market can come with warranties from 15 years up to 25 years. Meanwhile, most RV flexible solar panels have a shorter lifespan, with warranties commonly ranging from 1 year and 5 years.

If you know what you're looking for, let's dive right into this in-depth flexible solar panel reviews of the most durable, reliable and reasonably priced models. Otherwise, skip to the next section to learn the most important buying criteria.

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