

Top rated solar panels uk

Choosing the best solar panels for your home, energy needs and budget will help to ensure that you make the most of your investment in solar. But with so many solar panel price points, brands and types available, the choice can feel daunting.

We're here to help. Our team of researchers spent 34 hours analysing 48 solar panels from the UK's 17 top solar companies, and compared them on key factors including power, efficiency and warranty.

In this article, we'll reveal our researchers' findings, explain the key measures they used, and explore what they mean for you. For example, solar panels with the highest power ratings are ideal for large households, while more efficient panels are a better choice for small roofs and homes that don't get much sunlight.

We'll offer more guidance on choosing the best solar panels for you in our buyers' guide, below. First, we'll reveal the nine solar panels that came top in our thorough product analysis, and explain why each panel might be the best choice for your home.

Once you have a good idea of the type of solar panel you want, it's time to collect a few quotes. Fill in our form, and our hand-picked selection of solar installers will be in touch. Read our guide on solar panel financing to get a better idea of how that side of it works.

The panel's efficiency rating puts it in the top 10% of all those we tested, enabling it to make the most of limited sunlight. It won't lose too much efficiency as it ages, either: SunPower promises it'll produce at least 88.25% of its original output after 40 years.

Such a mighty power output won't be necessary for all homes, but could be ideal if you have a large household with big energy needs. Just make sure your roof is up to supporting panels that weigh 38.5 kg and measure 3.1 square metres each.

The average product warranty for a solar panel is 25 years, and some stretch to 40 – but Project Solar outdoes them all with a lifetime warranty for its Evo Super Max 455. That's the kind of confidence you want from a manufacturer.

SunPower promises that the highly efficient Maxeon 3 will remain productive for decades on end. Thanks to its market-leading performance warranty, you're guaranteed 92% of original output after 25 years, and 88.25% after 40 years.



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Q Cells's panel is unusually good at coping in the heat. The panel loses just 0.25% of its efficiency with every degree over 25°C, compared with 0.34% or more by nearly 80% of the panels in our test.

With heatwaves getting more common, it will become more and more important to invest in panels that don't flag as the mercury rises – and continue to work well for years. Sadly, Q Cells's product warranty of just 12 years is well below average.

Panasonic's HIT N340 weighs in at well below the 22.4 kg industry average, and takes up a modest 1.7 square metres of space, compared with the usual 2 metres. The panel is less powerful than its heavier rivals, but its light weight makes it a wise choice if your roof is fragile or unusually shaped.

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