



Top solar generator comparison chart

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As solar technology improves and our understanding of the climate crisis deepens - especially in the face of steep price hikes to gas and oil - more and more of us are turning to alternative renewable energy sources to meet our needs. Solar generators, whether intended to be portable or stored at home, provide all-in-one solutions for both storing and using powerful solar electricity.

However, it can be near-impossible to separate sales jargon from genuine user reviews in a burgeoning solar market. At Today's Homeowner, we only deal in clear and concise information gleaned from our expert research and personal experience to give you a straightforward, no-nonsense breakdown of the best solar generators available to you for various purposes and to suit a range of budgets in 2023.

Today's Homeowner is an educational website focusing on home improvement, with a focus on DIY solar and wind energy solutions for the home, business, and individual. We are a proud member of and contributor to the broader renewable energy community, and our team is made up of clean energy enthusiasts. We spend most of our time scouring reviews, forums, and online stores to find the best products and the most reliable information with which to inform our readers.

From our own personal experience, we know that renewable energy - and in this case, solar generators - often require significant initial investment before the long-term pay-off can be enjoyed. We know that what a manufacturer says about its product isn't necessarily representative of the real-life experience of that product's users, and we know that not all solar generators put out the advertised continuous inverter wattage, hold the advertised battery capacity, or last for the battery life cycle they are supposed to.

We haven't just picked five random solar generators, nor have we been paid to advertise these specific units. Instead, we've carefully and meticulously selected the products on this list based on a few key metrics and with a variety of potential solar enthusiasts in mind.

First, we compiled a product tracker to chart the specifications, reviews, and real-life output of over 50 different solar generators across 30 parameters, from price to protection systems, voltage, battery capacity, number of ports, and more--all in all, that equates to a comprehensive product tracker covering over 1,000 unique data points. The full table can be found at the end of the article.

Next, we identified the 3 key parameters which matter most when choosing the right solar generator for you. They are battery capacity, weight, and price. Whilst other metrics are, of course, also important to factor into your final decision, it's these three parameters that affect the portability, affordability, and versatility of any solar generator. Thus, it's these three parameters that dictate how suitable a given generator is for your purposes.

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Now that you know who we are, why we've written this solar generator product review for you, and how we came to pick our top 5 solar generators of 2023, let's dive straight into the product reviews themselves. With each solar generator, we'll lay out all of the essential information you need to know, and then examine the product in greater depth, with a range of specific use-cases in mind, and stemming from our own personal research.

The Bluetti EP500 is at the forefront of domestic-scale solar generation and storage, with some of the most impressive specs we've seen to date. If used for a full battery cycle every day, this solar generator has an estimated lifespan of a little over 16 years. Best suited to the homeowner with a large-sized solar array, the sheer bulk of this thing prohibits it from use as a portable generator, though its wheels do allow for mobility around the home.

At the time of writing, Bluetti's EP500 is fresh off the production line, hitting stores for the very first time. As such, it's hard to say just how accurately the final product is living up to the hype. Having said that, it's hard not to be impressed by the specs on this monster. Building on a long history of quality machines, Bluetti have sought to push the boundaries of contemporary solar generator design with the EP500.

It also retains some of the much-beloved features of other Bluetti generators, such as the inverter from the AC200P series which kicks out 2,000W of continuous power (enough to power a range of small to medium-sized household appliances and gadgets at once), with a surge capacity of 4,800W. We like the innovative battery, too, which is a LiFePO₄ (Lithium-Iron-Phosphate) unit designed to retain a full charge for several months with minimal loss. Additionally, the technology to pair two EP500s together to double their potential output is also in production.

Where the EcoFlow RIVER Max does shine, however, is in its use as a lightweight, portable, and highly-functional solar generator for up to week-long camping, hiking, and road trips. Fully charged, the RIVER Max can quite comfortably look after your smartphones, laptops, GoPros, drones, speakers, camping lights, and other gadgets, with the capacity to charge up to 9 devices at once. Here, 500+ life cycles mean 500+ adventures with your solar generator in tow which, depending on how often you venture out, could give it a lifespan of a decade or more.

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