



What Size Inverter Do I Need to Run a TV

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The energy efficiency of TVs have improved significantly, and it is no longer a problem to use them on solar panels. But solar panels are not enough as you also need an inverter to run it with your other appliances, but what is the right size?

The formula is simple: add 20% to 25% to the watts a TV needs to run, and you have the inverter size. For the best results, the inverter should be near the battery. Short, thick cables are required to connect the TV, inverter and battery.

20 to 25% is the minimum addition. You can go with 50% or even a 100%. But 25% is safe enough, and you really should go higher only if you plan to use other devices. Most of the time that is the case though, as solar power users use one large inverter to power various devices.

For the inverter capacity you should round off the figures to the next largest size available. You will not find a 187W inverter for instance, so you should buy a 200W instead.

So if you have a 42 inch LED TV you can use something like the BESTEK 150W Inverter and not experience any problems with capacity. A larger TV of course will need a bigger inverter.

These are the minimum inverter sizes you can get. If you are going to use the inverter to run other appliances on solar besides the TV, a larger capacity is required. But the computation is the same. Instead of just the TV, total all the appliances' watts and add 20% to 25%.

If you only need a portable TV for your RV and do not plan to use other appliances, those are suitable. But for most solar powered setups and regular households, a large inverter is preferable to run several appliances at once.

A 1500W inverter powered by a 100ah 12V battery can run a 100-150W TV for 9 to 10 hours. The runtime will also depend on the inverter efficiency. Assuming it is 85% efficient, the 5 to 6 hour running time is reasonable. There is more information about that available you are interested.

If your solar system is on the grid there is no runtime limit. The inverter draws power from the solar panel and can switch to the power grid. As long as there is power on the grid you can keep the TV and any appliance running.

If your system is grid tied you can run the inverter as long as there is electrical power. If you are off the grid, we recommend a minimum 100ah battery. Our choice is the Renogy Deep Cycle AGM since it runs well with TVs and other appliances.

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A pure sine wave inverter is recommended for newer TVs because it is more energy efficient. Modified sine inverters are cheaper but the energy loss can be as high as 30%. The higher the energy loss, the shorter the appliance runtime.

There are a lot of pros and cons to this debate. But essentially you can use modified sine wave inverters on simple electronics like chargers and water pumps. Appliances with AC power like a coffee maker, refrigerator and compressor require pure sine wave inverters.

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