



Whole house solar battery backup

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The Generac PWRcell 2 is a home energy storage system that can provide whole or partial home backup power. This is the second generation of Generac's popular home battery solution, and the new version offers extra power output and new home integrations.

Compared to other leading home energy storage systems, the Generac PWRcell is a bit more expensive but offers some unique functionality, like controlling your home's HVAC system to extend battery life.

A Generac PWRcell 2 series battery system costs between \$14,000 and \$25,000 without solar panels, depending on the size of the battery (9 to 18 kWh) and your location. Another PWRcell cabinet with an additional 18 kWh of storage can be added to the system for about \$15,000.

These costs would be in addition to a solar installation, so the total cost for a typical 18 kilowatt-hour (kWh) Generac PWRcell battery backup with a 6-kW solar installation would be around \$43,000.

The Generac PWRcell system is customizable based on the needs of each specific customer, so we've included a range of prices for common configurations below. Generac products are sold through a nationwide network of licensed dealers, so pricing can vary depending on the area where you live.

Those prices might seem high--and they are. The Generac platform is meant to be a premium product that adds backup and home energy management capabilities to a home. Less-expensive batteries exist, including the excellent Enphase IQ 5P and Tesla Powerwall 3 (which is a great choice for new solar installation), but they won't offer the unique functionality of the PWRcell, such as smart thermostat integration.

One bit of good news on cost is that the PWRcell is eligible for solar battery incentives, including ongoing payments for participating in virtual power plants in some areas. For starters, the federal clean energy tax credit can get you back 30% of the total cost to install the system. Information about state-level incentive programs can be found in our guide to solar battery rebates and incentives.

Like the previous generation, the battery cabinet can hold between 3 and 6 battery modules, equaling 9 to 18 kWh of energy storage capacity. Up to two battery cabinets can be connected to a single inverter, and two inverters can be used, for a total of 72 kWh of storage in a single installation.



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