



Best solar panels for residential use

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Having written thousands of product reviews and how-to articles on all aspects of home ownership, from routine maintenance to major renovations, Dan (he/him) brings more than 20 years of industry experience to his role as the director of the Home Improvement & Outdoor Lab at the Good Housekeeping Institute. A one-time roofer and a serial remodeler, Dan can often be found keeping house at his restored Brooklyn brownstone, where he lives with his wife and kids.

Slash your energy costs with one of our top-rated rooftop solar systems.

You probably know Panasonic for its consumer electronics, ranging from cameras to hair dryers. But the century-old Japanese brand is also a pioneering powerhouse in the solar panel space, having entered the market way back in 1975. Though it stopped doing its own manufacturing in 2021, Panasonic panels still offer the best combination of performance and reliability, especially if you spring for the TripleGuard warranty, which provides a 25-year product, performance and labor warranty on any panels installed by a Panasonic-authorized installer.

I'm a big fan of the EverVolt, Panasonic's premium line of solar panels with exceptional power output and efficiency. The HK Black Series is the newest offering and represents the best of the best, including 410-watt output and an extremely low degradation rate, meaning the panels will still be producing at least 92% of their original output after 25 years.

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Canadian Solar entered the market in 2001 with the mission of delivering the best possible value to consumers. The average cost of installation starts around \$16,100 (including tax credits), which is the cheapest of all national manufacturers reviewed by our experts. The low cost doesn't come with a lot of compromise in quality either. Case in point: Canada Solar's new HiHero 445H-AG solar panel has an impressive power output (410 watts) and temperature coefficient (.26), which means it works well in all climates.

SunPower has been around since 1985 with a proven track record -- and that's significant, given the high rate of unscrupulous (or just plain inexperienced) companies in the solar panel space. What's more, SunPower is an installer with a history of manufacturing so they know the industry inside out, plus they're a one-stop solution for all your solar needs, including the panels and battery storage, all backed by one of the best warranties in the business.

Their products are superb too, none better than the M-line from its SunPower Equinox Series. The panels boast a maximum power output of 440 watts and efficiency rating of 22.8%, both best in class. I also like the fact that SunPower uses microinverters behind each panel to convert sunlight into power for your home.



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Besides maximizing power and efficiency, it means the entire system won't shut down if there's an issue with one panel, which is the case with solar panels that use a central inverter.

All that innovation doesn't come cheap, but our experts say it's worth paying a premium for SunPower, given the exceptional performance and peace of mind.

Since 2006, Jinko Solar has produced reliable rooftop solar panels for a global market. Its oversized panels, which boast solid power output and efficiency, are especially well-suited to the larger housing stock found throughout much of the U.S.

The efficient design and ample proportions of Jinko's monocrystalline panels make for very good value. When EnergySage crunched the numbers to come up with an average price per watt comparison across multiple panels, the Tiger Neo was the best, coming in at \$2.55 per watt.

One contributing factor to the excellent efficiency of the Tiger Neo panel is its ability to harness the sun's power even in lower-light conditions, for example, on an overcast day or when it's foggy out. That makes Jinko a solid choice if your home is outside of the Sun Belt and prone to more variable weather conditions.

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