



# Pros and cons of solar panels for home

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Weighing the pros and cons of solar energy is an essential step in determining whether solar power is the best choice for you. Solar power is a truly renewable energy source that can reduce or eliminate electricity bills and potentially increase home value. However, the expensive upfront cost may not be feasible for everyone.

This guide covers the advantages and disadvantages of solar energy to help you make an informed decision about whether shifting to solar power is right for your home or business.

Solar energy harnesses the power of the sun to generate electricity or heat. The most common method to do this is with photovoltaic (PV) panels, more frequently called solar panels. Here's a brief overview of how solar energy systems work:

Solar panels absorb sunlight.

The panels convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity.

An inverter changes DC electricity into alternating current (AC) for use in homes and businesses.

Photovoltaic tiles offer another method of capturing the sun's energy and look more like a traditional roof than installing large solar panels. However, these solar shingle roofs cost much more than solar panels and produce less power, so they are typically not worth the higher cost.

Solar is truly renewable. While fossil fuels are finite and contribute to climate change, sunlight is abundant and clean. By using solar power, you are tapping into an endless energy source that doesn't produce emissions or pollutants. This makes solar energy an eco-friendly option that can significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

One of the biggest benefits of solar energy is the potential to save on your electricity bills. Generating your own power and reducing your dependence on the grid can mean significant savings, especially in areas with high electricity rates. In many cases, homeowners can eliminate their electricity bills completely.

With no moving parts, solar panels require minimal upkeep beyond an inspection and cleaning once or twice a year to keep them running at optimal performance. Most solar panels come with 25+ year warranties, so you can expect decades of trouble-free service.

Some solar panel installation contracts include annual inspection and maintenance service. When not included, solar panel maintenance costs \$300 to \$850 per year on average. This includes a full inspection plus \$150 to \$500 for the cost of solar panel cleaning, depending on the job size and complexity.

By generating your own electricity, you gain some energy independence. This can be especially valuable in areas that are prone to power outages or where electricity rates are high and unpredictable. Solar energy systems, especially with battery storage, offer a reliable power source even during grid failures.

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