

# How big a solar panel is needed for household electricity





## Overview

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How many solar panels do you need to power a house?

The goal for any solar project should be 100% electricity offset and maximum savings — not necessarily to cram as many panels on a roof as possible. So, the number of panels you need to power a house varies based on three main factors: In this article, we'll show you how to manually calculate how many panels you'll need to power your home.

How much power does a solar panel use?

Solar panel power ratings range from 250W to 450W. Based on solar.com sales data, 400W is the most popular power rating and provides a great balance of output and Price Per Watt (PPW). If you have limited roof space, you may consider a higher power rating to use fewer panels. If you want to spend less per panel, you may consider a lower wattage.

How much space does a solar panel need?

Considering Roof Size Limitations and High-Efficiency Panels Your available roof space plays a crucial role in determining your solar panel setup. A typical solar panel measures about 65 x 39 inches, requiring approximately 17.5 square feet per panel.

How many kW solar panels do I Need?

As we calculated earlier, the California household needs a 7.2 kW system to cover its electricity needs. A comparable household in Massachusetts needs a 9.9 kW system. So, in less sunny areas like Massachusetts, you might consider choosing highly efficient solar panels to maximize your energy output per square foot.



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