



# Disadvantages of solar panels for your home

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May come with high upfront costs or required financing Not an option for heavily shaded properties from trees or neighboring buildings Can require significant amounts of unobstructed roof or yard space Incentives...

Your roof can be expensive to repair, ask anyone who's ever had hail damage or had to replace a roof. Solar panels get constructed to withstand weather and not break, but need proper installation to prevent any...

Before entering into any major investment, it's important to consider the potential disadvantages--and that's certainly the case if you're considering installing solar panels, hiring a solar installation company, or using solar energy in another way. Not only are solar panels a significant expense, but they also represent a commitment that can last decades.

That's why this is not a decision that you should rush into. Instead, take the time to review the disadvantages of solar energy so that you can confidently make the decision that is right for you.

While you are looking at solar energy pros and cons, perhaps the biggest solar energy disadvantage that sticks out is the expense with the best solar panels often demanding a premium. Beyond that, there are several other potentially negative factors you should consider before moving ahead.

Many people consider solar panels because of the long-term savings potential. However, that comes with a steep upfront price: On average, residential solar panels cost \$16,000--with \$3,500 on the low end and \$35,000 on the high end.

These costs depend on factors such as the amount of solar panels needed, the type of solar panels used and where you live. The cost of solar panels can vary significantly even within the continental United States. For example, the starting cost for a six-kW system in Wisconsin is \$17,580 compared to a \$13,101 starting cost for a comparable system in Tennessee.

Currently, the federal government provides a 26% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for systems installed in 2022. However, that rate is set to dip to 22% for systems installed in 2023. Unless the credit is renewed, it is due to expire in 2024. If you're considering installing solar panels in a year or two from now, that means you may want to anticipate it costing even more.

If you don't have funds available to pay for solar panels outright, there are numerous solar panel financing options available. The catch is that the average interest rate for loans like these is more than 6%, which means you will ultimately spend quite a bit more money while paying the interest.

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To determine how many solar panels you need, you'll first need to understand how much electricity your home uses on a monthly basis. Your personal sum should be listed on your utility bill as "kWh used" for one month's demand. If you are building a home and aren't sure of your energy demands, keep in mind that the average household needs 867 kilowatt-hours (kW/h) per month in electrical power.

This can be a disadvantage both because of cost and the logistical challenges presented by having so many solar panels on your roof. Solar panels can complicate home repairs--especially if you need to repair the roof. That could result in an average expense of \$2,500 to remove and reinstall solar panels. The best approach is to thoroughly repair and reinforce your roof before installing solar panels, although this too adds to the cost.

Not surprisingly, solar panels rely on the sun. If your home doesn't receive a consistent amount of sunlight, this may not be the option for you. What is surprising is that even homes in seemingly sunny areas still may not be good candidates for solar energy: The biggest factor determining the potential efficacy of solar panels is the latitude at which a home is situated.

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