



Pole mounted residential solar panels

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Whether your roof isn't ideal for solar panels or you simply want to maximize your energy production, ground-mounted solar panels offer a versatile solution. They're easier to install and maintain than roof-mounted panels, and they can catch more sunlight than rooftop installations. Our guide explains the pros and cons of ground-mounted solar panels so you can decide if they're the right type of solar panel for your home.

Ground-mounted solar panels are mounted on frames or poles and are securely anchored to the ground instead of a roof. This setup makes them a more versatile and efficient alternative to rooftop systems. Ground-mounted solar panels work particularly well for properties with lots of open space.

Like rooftop systems, ground-mounted solar energy systems harness the sun's power through photovoltaic (PV) cells. These cells link together in modules, which then connect to form an array large enough to power your home.

PV cells have a semiconductive layer that absorbs sunlight and uses its energy to generate electricity. This direct current flows along metal lines to an inverter that changes it into the alternating current needed to power your home. Excess energy either flows into the electric grid or into solar batteries that store it for later use.

The sunflower-inspired solar panels featured in the video below are one example of a ground-mounted system that automatically adjusts its tilt and orientation throughout the day. Renewable energy expert Jim Gordon explains that these robotic flower solar panels produce 40% more energy than a fixed-array system by following the sun.

Solar panels cost an average of \$3.40 per watt in 2023, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). That works out to \$17,000 for a 5-kilowatt (kW) system, \$24,480 for a 7.2-kW system, and \$28,900 for an 8.5-kW system.

We recommend getting free quotes from multiple solar companies before committing to a solar panel installation project. Weigh each company's product and payment options and consider all potential energy savings. The most efficient solar panels cost more up-front but pay for themselves more quickly.

Determining whether ground-mounted solar panels are right for you is a matter of personal preference and property variables. Below are situations in which you should strongly consider ground-mounted panels.

Schedule a consultation with a reputable solar installation company if you're unsure which type of solar system to choose. An experienced technician can calculate your energy needs and recommend the best product and placement for your household.



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Ground-mounted solar panels offer a flexible and efficient alternative to rooftop solar arrays. They're also easier to maintain and scale than rooftop panels. A ground-mounted system with solar tracking capabilities costs more upfront and takes up a significant amount of space, but it's more efficient than a fixed array. We recommend consulting with a solar professional to make an informed decision tailored to your situation and property.

As a general rule, you'll need at least 350 square feet of space for ground-mounted solar panels. The exact amount depends on your desired energy output, panel efficiency, layout, and tilt angle.

No, ground-mounted solar systems usually cost more than rooftop solar panels due to the need for additional materials like framing, anchoring systems, and longer wiring. However, optimally positioned ground-mounted solar panels may generate more energy and thus save you more money in the long run.

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