



Solar battery storage outside

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If you've been researching battery backup options, we bet you've come across more than one photo of a Tesla Powerwall or other energy storage option hanging in a garage or outside in a modern carport. That may work in cozy climates like southern California, but in chilly New Hampshire, that isn't going to fly. Here is the breakdown of why we are selective about where to store your solar battery bank.

Conceptionally, yes. Consider the rating system on the battery backup storage Granite State Solar prefers to use, the Tesla Powerwall. Tesla Powerwalls have been tested to see how well they block foreign objects, small sediment, and moisture. Overall, they rate highly for quality and resilience against environmental degradation, so on paper, yes, they are considered "outdoor rated."

Batteries will operate just fine down to below freezing, but after that, the Powerwall uses some energy to keep itself warm cause this does reduce battery efficiency, Granite State Solar does not recommend installing batteries outside.

In a perfect world, we will first recommend placing your solar backup battery in a climate-controlled area, like a basement or heated garage, but there can be fire code considerations to factor in.

Granite State Solar's General Manager, Ben Soucy, explains the thin line we walk when deciding the safest and most efficient area to place your system: "Adoption of energy storage systems in New Hampshire is ramping up quickly and as such many towns and inspectors are gaining a better understanding of the code requirements."

"That being said," he continues, "it is still evolving in the state, and we promote the best, most compliant options for meeting those codes. A small, dedicated room in your basement or a safe spot in your garage is likely the best location as these areas can easily meet the National Fire Code requirements often enforced."

If fire code restrictions prevent the placement of your system from being in a climate-controlled area, any enclosed structure will be our next best option. Granite State Solar's main priority is your safety and ensuring you receive the highest battery performance and lifecycle for your investment.

As subject matter experts, we provide only objective information. We design every article to provide you with deeply-researched, factual, useful information so that you can make informed home electrification and financial decisions. We have:

Incorporated third-party data and information from primary sources, government agencies, educational institutions, peer-reviewed research, or well-researched nonprofit organizations.



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We won't charge you anything to get quotes through our marketplace. Instead, installers and other service providers pay us a small fee to participate after we vet them for reliability and suitability. To learn more, read about how we make money, our Dispute Resolution Service, and our Editorial Guidelines.

Solar batteries are the most common form of solar energy storage - which is important because the sun isn't always shining! You may be considering a solar battery if you're looking for resiliency, energy security, or cost savings (especially if you live in an area with time-of-use (TOU) rates or don't have net metering). While most home batteries are available today use lithium-ion chemistry, they come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and storage capacities. Check out the EnergySage Buyer's Guide to explore and compare solar battery options available today.

In order to determine where you should install your solar battery, it's first important to consult requirements from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to setting codes and standards to ensure fire safety. They created NFPA 855: Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems to set the minimum requirements to mitigate any hazards associated with energy storage.

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