Solar dc to ac calculator

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Solar energy projects are often priced in dollars per watt ($/W). Which type of wattage is it, though? DC (direct current) or AC (alternating current) watts? After reading this article, we hope you will have enough information to ensure that you are making a fair comparison when considering solar offers from different companies.

Typically, watts will be used to describe how powerful your solar array is. A system rated at 3000 watts (W) will generate 3000 watts (or 3 kilowatts) under ideal conditions. Not to be confused with watt-hours, which is a separate unit of measurement.

Even though AC watts and DC watts have the same unit (watts) and power is power (it never changes), however, in this case, when converting from DC to AC or vice versa, a power loss will occur, and that’s why DC watts are not the same as AC watts.

For this reason, it’s important to know if the quoted system’s power is in AC or DC watts, as these are very different. An example would be comparing two offers for $30,000 each; if one was expressed in AC watts and the other in DC watts, then there is a big difference. Let’s find out which offer will be the best in this case.

The solar panels generate direct current (DC), and battery technology is optimized for DC storage (12v, 24v, 48v). However, the vast majority of our home electronics are made to operate on AC power (120-240V). When DC power is converted to AC power using an inverter, some energy is lost in the process.

If you’re a solar beginner, use the converter below to see how much DC watts will be equivalent to AC watts, and then keep reading for additional information on this issue.

DC watts can be expressed in two different ways. STC, or Standard Test Conditions, is a term that is sometimes referred to as the “nameplate rating” for a product. Because all you have to do to get a rough estimate is multiply the wattage per panel by the total number of panels to get a rough estimate of the cost, this method of quoting is the simplest and easiest to understand. If you were to install ten 230-watt panels, your system’s DC STC rating would be 2300 watts.

The second, more accurate method is what we call “Performance Test Conditions,” or PTC. This method will be lower than STC by a small margin. PTC refers to the process through which the panels are tested in real-world environmental conditions. In practice, the output of a 200-watt panel may only be 180 watts. The ratings given by PTC consider all possible losses, such as those caused by cables.

For this reason, we recommend you to use the PTC rating of your panels when using the above calculator to

get an accurate number; otherwise, you will have to add the wiring losses to the STC rating.

To get the AC watts of your solar panels, you simply multiply the total PTC wattage of your solar array by the inverter efficiency, which is usually between 85-95%. This will be the watts you will receive at your home sockets.

In this example, I will calculate the AC watts my home received from five 300-watt solar panels and a 3kW inverter. First, let’s find the PTC rating for the solar panels on the specs sheet:

Another example could be the DC power stored in your battery bank. Using the same knowledge that we learned in the previous example, we will calculate the total AC power stored in our battery bank. However, the unit is different in this case, it is watt-hour, but we still could use the same calculator.

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