

The cost of installing solar panels





Overview

How much does a solar panel installation cost?

Cost Per Kilowatt Installed Solar panel installation costs vary significantly based on location, system size, and quality. Here are 2025 average costs across major markets: Example: A typical 6 kW residential system costs between \$15,000 and \$36,000 before incentives, depending on your location and chosen components.

Are solar installations cheap?

Solar installations aren't cheap, but the actual equipment is a relatively small part of the total cost. It's only 35% of your total installation cost, according to the US Department of Energy. Soft costs, also known as the hidden costs of installing solar, are nonhardware costs, and they make up 65% of your total solar costs, according to the DOE.

How much does a home solar system cost?

According to studies by the U.S. Department of Energy, the all-in cost of a home solar panel system is between \$2.74 to \$3.30 per watt. ^{1,2,12} This figure includes the solar panels, the installation, and other expenses. Using these numbers, an average-sized 8-kilowatt residential solar system would cost between \$21,900 - \$26,400.

How much does a 12 kW solar panel installation cost?

The average cost of a 12 kW solar panel installation on EnergySage is \$29,649 before available incentives. You'll typically save anywhere from \$37,000 to \$148,000 over 25 years by installing solar panels. Solar panels are just 12% of the total cost of a solar panel installation.



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