

DIY NON-CERTIFIED SELF-INSTALLATIONS

The biggest reason non-professionals should not install solar panels is that it's a highly technical task requiring a level of knowledge and skill that most people or non-solar certified construction or electrical contractors possess. Saving a few thousands of dollars is often not worth it as the process in most municipalities involves special solar permits following strict building & fire codes.

A mistaken belief is savings is the be all and end all, I maintain this is not true.

Solar is a very professional trade done by experts who give great value and guarantees for decades of carefree and safe energy production. That is worth its weight in gold.

Just a few of the things you need to know in order to install solar panels properly include:

- What angle you will tilt the panels, there is a precise computer driven formula for this.
- What size panel (wattage) you need to generate the right amount of power
- Whether your roof has enough space for the panels and making sure all codes are met.
- Whether your roof is strong enough to hold the panels
- Battery integration restricted in many municipalities, requirement to use certified solar installers.

Imagine trying to install the panels without knowing the answer to these questions. If your roof isn't strong enough to handle the panels, they could crash through while you try to install them or worse if not attached properly, leak. Then you would need to pay to replace the roof, an added expense you weren't counting on.

Another reason not to install solar panels on your own is that a kit or going out and buying parts separately, is much less effective than a system **custom designed specifically for your home.**

Customization takes into account things such as usage data, how much shade your house gets and where the sun hits your roof, ambient temperature date, luminance, etc..

When panels aren't installed correctly, they won't generate as much power as they should. This means you won't save as much money on your electricity bill and often be underpowered and continue to owe an electricity bill.

Important. If a panel or inverter fails, our professional installers know how to interface and correct any issue easily including prompt replacement, whereas in DIY you have to contact the manufacturer to start a return and replacement process which can take time and be frustrating, all the while your system is down.

Solar batteries

At the present time there are only three major battery manufacturers.

All these have been extensively tested and reviewed, now installed in thousands of homes nationwide. Solar + Battery, making it possible to be self-powered with little or no utility energy needed.

Most solar batteries currently are only licensed for installation and service by solar installation companies. Because of local and state license requirements, even if a person were to get a hold of one of these batteries and DIY, there is a very real potential voiding of any warranty.

There is no current information if tier one batteries will ever be available to private suppliers.

Two of the major reasons for the tight control of distribution are the electrical complexities of integrating battery technology and the high risk and potential liability issues of a non-Solar licensed contractor or electrician installing. There could be damage to any component connected or short / fire.

Tesla™, Enphase™ and Solar Edge™ have specialized technician training programs that have recurring certification requirements. These are not available outside solar install companies.

You cannot make a mistake when it comes to attempting to DIY batteries as they must integrate safely into home wiring to 'arbitrage', manage power between the solar, battery, and the grid. There are now new electrical codes that cities, counties, states and utilities require.

Solar panels used by commercial solar companies are of a higher-grade than those available to a private party or even contractors. These panels are marketed and sold only to certified solar companies. Further, are generally higher wattage, extreme temperature rated, and made of superior glass that is impact resistance (hail, golf balls), than ones obtained through Home Depot, online, etc..

Panels have 30+ years life, with 25-year warranties, serviced at no charge, one phone call away. On self-installed panels you are solely responsible for all repairs. Some manufacturer's warranties are voided if not installed by a solar certified company.

A big plus is the installer's easy access to repair parts, inverters and panels years down the road.

Solar wiring can be dangerous. In addition to the immediate danger posed whenever you handle wiring, an improperly installed solar wire can spark power surges that could destroy your inverter and panels and could lead to a fire. Wires that are cut the wrong way can also short-out when it rains, posing a threat of fire as well.

Finally, there's a lot of technical know-how solar installers have that you can benefit from.

They know how to secure the proper permits and follow local regulations. Attachment of racking and conduit is more complicated than most realize as fire codes come into play. You may not be eligible for some tax breaks and other incentives unless you get your solar panels installed by a professional.

Most important hiring somebody to help with electrical, roof, etc. there is no guarantee they will be available in several years if something malfunctions. Install companies generally will be for decades.

From This Old House article published in 2024:

Solar Panel Cost Professionally installed solar panels come with a few benefits that can help offset the higher price than DIY:

Wholesale discounts: Professional installers get better deals on solar panels and other equipment. You will likely pay more for the same components if you buy them yourself.

Financing Many solar companies offer financing options to make your project more affordable. Getting a loan for a DIY project will be significantly harder, so you may have to pay the full cost upfront.

Warranties Professionally installed solar panels come with warranty from both the manufacturer installer. These warranties can save you money if something goes wrong with your system in the future.

Peace of mind Experienced installer maximizes reliability & efficiency of your system: extra assurance justifies the higher cost.

Convenience Installing your own solar panels requires a significant time investment. Professional installation costs more but saves you time, hassle, and risk.

Requires a lot of expertise Mistakes can lead to roof leaks or damage with no recourse. Is a highly time-consuming project and Isn't backed by a multi-year labor warranty. It's possible to install solar panels on your own, but DIY solar installation requires serious know-how and tools. Some solar companies design solar panel kits targeted toward DIY'ers. However, these kits are often meant for small builds, such as converting a shed, RV, or boat. Installing a solar energy system requires knowledge of electrician work. You'll have to work on your roof and with buried wires. The stakes are high for a mishap; crossed wires can malfunction and even cause electrical fires. Additionally, it may be illegal for you to do this work without a professional, depending on your municipality's zoning laws. Many zoning laws also prohibit installing off-grid solar energy systems. DIY solar panels work best for small projects or to supplement traditional energy source. If you want to power home with solar, we recommend hiring one of top solar companies to design and install your system.

Solar Panel Maintenance Professional solar companies include a warranty with installation that protects your investment if there's a malfunction or installation error. They'll complete repairs or replacement if necessary and even cover the cost. DIY solar panel installation doesn't come with this support, especially if you lack the technical expertise to identify issues with solar panels, hiring a professional to inspect your panels each year is a good idea but costly. Similarly, if your solar panels are damaged and require repairs beyond your technical ability, you will need to hire a professional to resolve the issue as DIY provides no paid labor coverage.

How To Find the Best Solar Panels You'll need to consider many factors when selecting the best solar panels for your project, including the panel type, efficiency rate, and warranties. We'll go over each of these factors in more detail below.

A solar panel manufacturer can help you with your selection, but hiring an installer is the best way to ensure you get the right panels for your project. Racks and roof mounts to place your panels on and an inverter to convert solar energy into alternating current are necessary and knowing which one is best is difficult.

"If you work with a turn-key installer that communicates at each step of the process, the home solar installation should be easy and worry-free," says Matt Johnson, co-owner of Namaste Solar. "A seasoned installer should handle all logistics from design to permitting finding all the incentives and rebates available."

Time-consuming and Challenging A solar system installation is no cakewalk. Without professional support, you must set aside time and energy to research components and the installation process, install everything yourself, acquire necessary permits, and more. Not everyone has the time and energy for such a big job, which may deter some from pursuing DIY solar.

Susceptible to Mishaps Even for the experienced DIY-er, without help from professional installers, your likelihood of error inevitably rises. Not only could this result in a significantly longer installation process, but also system malfunction. DIY installation also comes with some risk. Contractors solar installers often have years of professional installation experience — climbing roofs, wearing protective gear, handling electrical equipment, and the like. Without extensive solar installation experience, injury risk increases.

Less Warranty Coverage Professional installation tends to come with an installer's warranty, covering system malfunction and maintenance. When you install the system yourself, there's a good chance the only warranty you'll be eligible for is your panel manufacturer's warranty. While valuable, manufacturer warranties tend to only cover system malfunction as opposed to installation error. If you decide to pursue a DIY installation, be prepared for installation-related issues not to be covered.

According to data from the EnergySage™ Marketplace, the average cost of going solar for homeowners (after accounting for the federal tax credit) is about \$20,650 in 2023. Of that amount, design and installation labor costs contribute about 10-15% of the total bill; this % is what a DIY solar installation will save you since you'll still have to buy the equipment and components yourself.

If you buy a home solar kit like the ones for sale at Costco or Home Depot, it may be less expensive per watt, but you aren't getting the same quality equipment that solar installers can offer you.

Your solar energy system will continue to generate electricity for 25 to 35 years, so you must consider both the upfront costs and the relative financial benefits for all of your solar options

Solar installers buy from equipment distributors that don't sell to the general public – and they're often getting lower prices because they're able to buy in bulk and have access to the best solar panel brands. Going for the more expensive option ends up saving you money in the long run because you get a system built to last decades, reliably offsetting your monthly electric bills.

When you decide on DIY solar panels, remember that you get what you pay for. A home solar kit may be less expensive, but solar installers offer tremendous value for a relatively little additional cost (remember that 10-15% figure?). When it comes to installing an expensive electrical system on your property, finding someone who knows what they're doing can save you both time and money in the long run.

Some of the best solar installers have been in the business for decades an experience that no amount of online research or DIY guides can replicate.

Every state requires that installers are licensed and qualified to install solar, and independent certifications like the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Solar PV Installation Professional Certification ensure that the company you choose to work with has an intimate understanding of the process. Because of this, they provide experienced insight and help you assess what equipment is the best fit for your property and whether a battery system is right for you.

Your solar installer will complete and file the permits and applications that you need to get your solar power system up and running. This is particularly important because your utility won't let you connect your system to the grid without a sign-off from a solar certified installation company.

Because of your solar installer's experience, they'll also have a strong understanding of the financial incentives for solar available in your area, and might even be able to help you save more money by finding any rebates and tax incentives that you may have missed. Lastly, it is important to note that many equipment manufacturers will only honor their warranties if a qualified installer installed their equipment. Installers also offer an additional warranty to back up their work, for example we offer a 90% power output guarantee for 25 years.

Our Conclusion DIY solar panel installation is possible if you feel comfortable dealing with the issues outlined in this article, but we only recommend it for small projects. Solar panel installation is complicated and can be dangerous, so you may prefer working with an installer. A professional determines the exact number of panels for your project based on your budget and energy needs and provides the free service of accurately arriving at a system that meets present and future.

WHY WAIT ?



0\$ PROGRAM

IMMEDIATE SAVINGS



NO INVESTMENT



NO RISK



FIXED LOW-COST ENERGY



Below are typical reactions when we recommend our free no-obligation Solar Analysis Discovery meeting.

I'm don't have time, I'm really busy right now, I have too many things going on, I'm able to pay my bill, I'm going to wait till later in the year, Maybe next year, I need to do more research, I'm not in a hurry.

Our analysis and Discovery meeting are informal. All it normally takes is one hour in the comfort of your home for us to show the amazing benefits of solar energy vs. traditional expensive utility energy. We educate and answer any question you might have. We have a well-received 'no pressure' approach.

It always makes sense to conclusively find out if solar is a good 'fit' for you, and in less time than most television movies take to watch!

Fact. Most people have been programmed their whole lives to pay the electric bill and have never been presented a risk-free way to escape from the traditional expensive increasing cost of electricity.

You have to 'buy' electricity every month, why not be smart and pay less?

Hundreds of studies all over the United States have conclusively shown solar provides clean reliable power for much less than the utility companies.

People who had solar installed 20-30+ years ago are still receiving the benefits.

Hundreds of thousands of Arizonians switched to solar with the growth accelerating each month.

We have 1000+ seniors in Sun City on the Amazing \$0 program which effectively shields you from endless price hikes. Remember they are a monopoly, 'They bill, you pay'.

No investment required. The \$0 Program requires no outgo of money for the system ever, so there is no stress associated with signing up and starting saving money the day the system is operating. We provide the collection system (panels, inverters and all associated hardware) at no cost to you ever. We act as general contractor obtaining all permits from the county, city and homeowner associations. Panels, inverters and hardware are now manufactured and built in the USA with 25 year warranties.

We do everything so you can relax, producing your own solar power and saving money in 1-2 months. Doing nothing or delaying switching to solar is not a good idea as this year you are forced to pay 13.6% each month more than in 2024 plus the new 25% increase for any on-peak usage.

Delay till 2026, another rate increase is proposed of 11%, so in just 2 years a whopping 25% increase!

Fact: The energy from the sun is forever free - it never goes up in price!

Why wait to meet with us, when each month you are paying excessively for your utility energy? Whereas your own solar the day it is turned on immediately saves you 20%-40% off your electricity costs each and every month. Your new solar rate locked in for 25 years whereas APS goes up and up. Most importantly a leased system will never cost you, you only pay for the inexpensive energy it produces.

If you want to buy or finance we have excellent prices.

Solar is a win, win for you as a consumer; it is definitely the wave of the future in America. Great future benefit is that your program transfers with no fees to new title holder. Whether a sale or transfer within a trust, they get all remaining warranties and the same low electric rate when you signed.

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Business ID: 1000036348
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Free Appointment



Use this QR code or go to our website
Use the 'Get a FREE Quote' link.
Fill out the 1 minute form.
We will contact you and start
you on your solar journey.