



Lifespan of Home Solar Photovoltaic Panels

How long do solar panels last?

Racking systems for solar panels are also separate from solar panel warranties. These may incur damage from weather elements. Solar inverters generally last 10 to 15 years. This shortened lifespan is due to how hard inverters continually work to convert energy from the solar panels into usable electricity for your home.

How long does a solar inverter last?

Most people focus on the panels, but the inverter--the device that turns solar electricity into usable power for your home--usually doesn't last as long. Standard string inverters typically last about 10 to 15 years, which means you'll probably need to replace them at least once during your panel system's lifetime.

Do solar panels still work after 25 years?

Studies such as those from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) show that modern solar panels lose about 0.5% of their output per year on average. That means after 25 years, the panels are still working, just not quite as powerfully as when they were new.

How long does a solar panel warranty last?

Most panel warranties are split into two parts: a performance guarantee, and a product or workmanship guarantee. The performance warranty promises your panels will still produce at a certain level after 25 years, but the product warranty is often much shorter--typically 10 to 12 years.

How much power does a solar panel lose a year?

According to the NREL, the average solar panel loses about 0.5% of its generating power each year. Some panels, especially cheaper or poorly made ones, can degrade even faster--sometimes losing up to 1% per year. Over 20 years, that means you could see a 10% to 20% drop in how much electricity your system produces.

Do solar panels expire?

There is technically no expiration date on solar panels. However, over time, they naturally tend to become less efficient at producing energy. Some panels can also break due to physical damage from extreme weather conditions.

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