

Where to Buy Solar Panels: 2024 Guide

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Why Solar Panels Make Sense Today

You've probably noticed your neighbor's roof gleaming with photovoltaic modules last summer. Well, U.S. solar installations grew 38% YoY in Q2 2023 according to SEIA data - that's enough to power 10 million homes. But wait, no... let's check that again. Actually, it's closer to 8.3 million households as of June 2024 estimates.

Here's the kicker: average panel costs dropped 62% since 2010. Combine that with rising electricity prices (up 12% nationally since January), and buying solar panels starts looking less like environmental virtue and more like financial sense. The Smiths in Phoenix slashed their energy bills by 80% after installation while adding \$18,000 to their home's resale value.

What Really Matters When Choosing Panels

Let's cut through the marketing fluff. Efficiency ratings? Important, but not the whole story. You know... it's sort of like comparing smartphone specs - real-world performance depends on installation quality and system integration. Tier 1 manufacturers might offer 22-24% efficiency, but does that matter if your inverter conks out in year three?

Key evaluation factors:

Wattage output (320W vs. 400W panels)

Degradation rate (look for

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