

What does the wattage of a solar panel mean





Overview

What is solar wattage?

Wattage refers to the amount of electrical power a solar panel can produce under standard test conditions (STC), which simulate a bright sunny day with optimal solar irradiance ($1,000 \text{ W/m}^2$), a cell temperature of 25°C , and clean panels. In simpler terms, a panel's wattage rating tells you its maximum power output under ideal conditions.

What is the wattage rating of a solar panel?

The Wattage rating of a solar panel is the most fundamental rating, representing the maximum power output of the solar panel under ideal conditions. You'll often see it referred to as "Rated Power", "Maximum Power", or "Pmax", and it's measured in watts or kilowatts peak (kWp).

What is the difference between solar panel wattage and output?

Solar panel wattage is the lab fixed rating. Solar panel output, on the other hand, is the actual DC power the panel will generate in the real world. In general, the solar panel output is usually lower than the rated solar panel wattage. What factors affect the solar panel output?

Heat, shade, dust, tilt/orientation, weather, and sunlight strength.

How much power can a solar panel produce?

For example, the nameplate from my solar panel specifies a Wattage output of 100W, meaning that the solar panel is capable of producing 100 Watts of power under ideal conditions. Manufacturers also provide an "Output/Power Tolerance" rating, showing how much the actual output can vary from the rated output.



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