



# Cheapest price on solar panels

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Solar panels for homes have become a symbol of eco-conscious living, but the initial cost can be a real hurdle. Yet the good news is that cheap solar panels are a reality for homeowners. This article will explore low-cost solar panels, weighing their pros, cons, and upfront costs.

To choose the best solar panels for your home, you need to consult an experienced solar installer first. Yet while searching for a trusted expert, you can spend hours (if not days!) calling and vetting installers on your own.

Instead, why not take a stress-free route with GreenMatch? All you need to do is complete a 30-second form and you'll receive up to 4 free and non-binding quotes from local solar experts we've thoroughly vetted. Click the button below to get started.

Premium panels, like SunPower's Maxeon series, come at a higher price tag (up to \$14 per unit). However, they deliver superior value through higher efficiency and enhanced durability. Typically, premium panels last 25-30 years, while cheaper panels have a shorter expected lifespan - 15-20 years or less.

They boast a slower degradation rate (around 0.3-0.5% per year compared to 0.8% for cheaper options). This translates to maintaining higher efficiency for longer, maximising your return on investment.

Solar panel degradation, in turn, refers to the rate at which the performance of your solar panels reduces over time. Cheap solar panels generally have a higher degradation rate compared to premium options. The average degradation rate for cheap panels can range from 0.8% to 1.5% per year or even higher.

Hot spots are areas of high temperature that affect a solar cell by consuming energy instead of generating it. They occur when connections between photovoltaic cells face heightened resistance, causing disruptions across the entire string of cells. To avoid hot spots use quality panels, ensure proper ventilation, avoid shading, and ensure regular maintenance and cleaning.

The overall construction of cheap solar panels is poor. This includes the use of low-grade ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) which degrades over time and results in lower energy production. Also, the back of the cheapest solar panels is often made from Tedlar (polyvinyl fluoride film trademark), which is prone to degradation and deterioration.

Moreover, the components mentioned above (EVA and polyvinyl fluoride film) can lead to issues like cracking and the formation of hot spots. Therefore, the inferior materials are less able to withstand harsh environmental conditions, especially high temperatures, leading to corrosion, delamination, and water leakage.



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If you're still on the fence about which type of solar panels will work best for your house, it's best if you decide with an experienced solar engineer. They can walk you through how much solar panels in the UK cost. They can also recommend the ideal solar panel type to optimise your environmental impact and return on investment for your specific situation.

Low-cost solar panels can be a cost-effective entry point for homeowners with lower electricity needs, particularly for a 4kW solar system or even a 5kW solar system, which is suitable for powering a 2-3 bedroom house. However, keep in mind the potential trade-offs in efficiency and lifespan compared to premium panels.

This is why buying solar panels for cheap without an installer is not recommended. A qualified installer can help you navigate potential trade-offs, such as ensuring you get enough panels to meet your energy demands despite their lower efficiency.

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