



Solar battery storage system 260 kWh

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The way batteries work is by storing electrical energy as chemical energy within a very delicately balanced collection of materials, including electrolytes and negatively charged semiconductors along with their positive counterparts. Power comes from the inverter, and is absorbed by the battery as 'potential energy'; and, when an appliance draws current from the battery, a reaction creates the electricity again and the appliance bursts into life. The amount of material inside the batteries, and the mixing of materials, gives you the capacity.

This metric alludes to the previous one as it is the amount of power you can draw from the battery before the battery management systems stop you. Most batteries come with a depth of charge of around 94 – 96% but some modern batteries will allow a 100%. If they can discharge to 100% it means the battery management is doing its work and the battery will start charging again as soon as it hits that 100%, which will draw power from the system... which is a bit of a waste.

Heat is a particularly important factor in the efficiency and longevity of a battery, with higher temperatures causing problems for the chemicals inside. Different types of batteries can stand various kinds of extreme temperatures but, here in the UK, most batteries installed in solar systems are Lithium Ion. Lithium Ion batteries can function between minus 20 and plus 60 Celsius but they are best kept at plus 10 to plus 30 Celsius. So, as the UK has fairly temperate weather, your battery will be functioning well all year.

The lifespan of a battery is measured in how many cycles of charging and discharging it can handle before it starts to lose its ability to retain a charge. For a standard Lithium-Ion battery, the charge cycles can be between 4000 and 6000 which, at 1 cycle a day, would be a lifespan of 10 – 15 years. During the winter, your battery may charge and discharge twice a day.

The Powerwall 3 is the second-generation hybrid battery from Tesla has an immense amount of storage at 13.5 kWh, which is more than enough to run an average household for a day. The system has all that storage, a built-in inverter and something called the Backup Gateway. This Gateway communicates with the Tesla app to tell you all about your energy usage. You can stack power walls together for more storage but it may be a bit overkill. Powerwalls will charge from either a PV array or from the grid – the app will control this.

The price has dropped a fair amount for the Puredrive PureStorage, but it is probably more indicative of the kind of money people spend on their solar battery. Buying an array of separate batteries, that are smaller and cheaper, maybe a better idea in the long run as you can replace them as they degrade and not have a huge layout of cash all at once. Anyway, the Puredrive PureStorage works with most inverters, has an Integrated DC isolator, a whopping 10,000 cycles and is IP65 weather and waterproof.

The Moixa Smart battery is very similar to other solar batteries, and let's be honest there isn't



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much difference in any of them, so to entice you in they have gone all out on the warranty.

Most solar batteries come with a 10-year guarantee, and the Moixa is no different, but if you sign up for Moixa Gridshare they will extend that to a lifetime guarantee. Yep, that battery is for life so long as Moixa are getting 50% of the cash for the electricity you export to the grid… so, you have to weigh up whether having a battery for life is better value than selling your energy to a normal supplier via SEG…. or if you want to sell it Moixa for that guarantee.

Greenlinx offer one of the most reliable batteries on the market today. They are small, lightweight, and able to discharge 100% due to the excellent battery management storage. They can be linked together to increase storage which, again, means you can save up for extra storage or replace one battery without having to lay out huge amounts of cash. You can monitor each battery individually using the management system and they work well with the LuxPower Hybrid Inverter.

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