



What is pv inverters

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We work with a panel of solar experts to create unbiased reviews that empower you to make the right choice for your home. No other solar site has covered renewables as long as EcoWatch, which means we have more data and insider information than other sites.

Note: In July 2024, SunPower notified dealers it would be halting all new shipments and project installations. The company also noted it would "no longer be supporting new Leases and PPA sales nor new project installations of these financing options."

Microinverters are small electronic devices that convert direct current (DC) into alternating current (AC). One microinverter could fit the palm of your hand. The main factor differentiating microinverters from traditional inverters is that they operate at the panel level rather than the solar panel system as a whole.

Microinverters are categorized as module-level power electronics (MLPE). Therefore, these grid-tie inverters have much smaller power ratings -- just enough to convert a single solar panel's DC power into AC power.

For example, a typical Enphase IQ8+ microinverter is rated for a peak output power of 300 VA and an input power of 235-440+ W, meaning you can install it on a solar panel with a minimum of 235 W and a maximum of around 440 W power output.

Most solar microinverters are plug-and-play devices, meaning you can connect and operate them in a few easy steps or disconnect them without using much time or tools. They usually sport built-in MC4 connectors for quick and easy connection.

SunPower designs and installs industry-leading residential solar and storage solutions across all 50 states. With a storied history of innovation dating back to 1985, no other company on this list can match SunPower's experience and expertise.

SunPower earns its position as the top national installer on our list for a handful of reasons: It installs the most efficient solar technology on the residential market, offers the most expansive service area and backs its installations with a warranty well above the industry standard. All the while, SunPower pioneers sustainability efforts within the industry.

If that weren't enough, SunPower systems come packaged with products all manufactured in-house by its sister company, Maxeon. This means that your panels, solar cells, inverters, battery and EV chargers are designed to work together and are all covered under the same warranty.

SunPower's biggest downside? Its high-efficiency panels are considerably more expensive than most of its



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competitors" products. However, its powerful panels are workhorses that make up for the initial cost with more backend production (think about this like spending more money for a car that gets more miles per gallon).

For that reason, Blue Raven Solar developed an innovative solar financing plan that offers in-house, flexible, zero-money-down options. The results speak for themselves, as Blue Raven Solar is now one of the fastest-growing solar companies in the nation and was recently acquired by SunPower. Its BluePower Plus+ plan (exclusive to Blue Raven) mimics the flexible structure of a lease while still providing the greatest benefits of owning your system.

Eligible homeowners enjoy 18 months of solar power before having to pay their first bill. When coupled with the federal solar investment tax credit (ITC), the initial energy savings can offset more than a third of the overall cost of a system before requiring a dollar down.

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