



COMMON QUESTIONS

These are some of our most commonly asked questions. Answers are from accredited third party resources to help you purchase with confidence. Any extra questions, please don't hesitate to ask your solar consultant!

WHAT IS THE DEGRADATION RATE FOR SOLAR PANELS?

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) performed a meta-analysis of studies that examined the long term degradation rates of various PV panels. They found that the 1% per year rule was somewhat pessimistic for panels made prior to the year 2000, and today's panels, with better technology and improved manufacturing techniques, have even more stamina than their predecessors. For monocrystalline silicon, the most commonly used panel for commercial and residential PV, the degradation rate is less than 0.5% for panels made before 2000, and less than 0.4% for panels made after 2000. That means that a panel manufactured today should produce 92% of its original power after 20 years

DOES SOLAR AFFECT THE VALUE OF MY HOME?

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - US Department of Energy (2015)

Capturing the value that solar photovoltaic (PV) systems may add to home sales transactions is increasingly important. Our study enhances the PV-home-valuation literature by more than doubling the number of PV home sales analyzed (22,822 homes in total, 3,951 of which are PV) and examining transactions in eight states that span the years 2002–2013. We find that home buyers are consistently willing to pay PV home premiums across various states, housing and PV markets, and home types; average premiums across the full sample equate to approximately \$4/W or \$15,000 for an average-sized 3.6-kW PV system.

DO MORE PEOPLE OWN THEIR SOLAR SYSTEM?

U.S. Residential Solar Financing 2016-2021 - Greentech Media

In 2017, direct ownership will overtake third-party ownership as more customers choose to purchase, rather than lease, their panels. As more U.S. residential solar customers choose to purchase solar panels rather than lease them, direct ownership is on its way to overtaking third-party ownership and reclaiming its position as the leading solar financing model for the first time since 2011. 55 percent of all U.S. residential solar capacity installed next year will be purchased by customers paying either in cash or with a loan.

WHY ARE PREMIUM MODULE BRANDS IMPORTANT?

U.S. PV Leaderboard - Greentech Media

As customer ownership becomes more popular and local and regional installers gain market share, premium module brands (Tier 1 manufacturers) favored in these installations will gain share. GTM Research expects customer-owned systems to account for more than half of residential capacity additions in 2017, and this percentage will increase even more in the years thereafter.

