

# **Solar panels installed on roof to bear the load**





## Overview

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Should I install solar panels on my roof?

Installing solar panels on your roof is a smart investment, but first you need to ensure your home can handle the additional weight. Most residential roofs can support solar panel systems, but calculating your roof's load capacity is a crucial step before installation begins.

Can a residential roof support a solar panel system?

Most residential roofs can support solar panel systems, but calculating your roof's load capacity is a crucial step before installation begins. Understanding your roof's structural limitations isn't just about safety—it's also required for permits and can prevent costly structural damage down the road.

How much weight does a solar panel add to a roof?

New solar panels by brands like Tesla are fairly thin and lightweight. In most cases, a solar panel installation will now only increase the load on a roof by somewhere around 2 to 4 pounds per square foot. The number of solar panels you install generally makes no difference as all that matters is the additional weight per square foot.

Do new solar panels increase the load on a roof?

Even though new solar panels typically don't substantially increase the load on a roof, you may still need to have additional support added before installing them. The reason is again due to the difference between dead load and live load.



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### Roof Load with Solar Panels: What You Need to Know

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