

Myths About Residential Solar Power

1) Solar panels are too expensive

- **Myth:** Installing solar panels is a prohibitively expensive luxury reserved for the wealthy.
- **Fact:** Costs have fallen dramatically over the last decade, and numerous financing options are available, such as loans and power purchase agreements (PPAs), that require little to no upfront cost. Additionally, federal tax credits and other state incentives significantly reduce the final investment.

2) Solar panels only work when it's sunny

- **Myth:** Solar panels are ineffective on cloudy or rainy days.
- **Fact:** Solar panels can generate electricity using diffuse, or indirect, sunlight that filters through clouds. Though efficiency is reduced on cloudy days, panels still produce a meaningful amount of power.

3) Solar panels don't work in cold or northern climates

- **Myth:** Solar panels are unsuitable for regions with cold weather or low annual sunlight, like the Pacific Northwest or Northern Europe.
- **Fact:** Solar panels can actually be more efficient in cooler temperatures because heat can decrease their performance. Additionally, modern panels can capture diffuse light, and system sizes can be adjusted to compensate for regional weather patterns.

4) Solar panels will keep the power on during an outage

- **Myth:** Because a home is generating its own electricity with solar panels, it will still have power if the electrical grid goes down.
- **Fact:** For safety, most standard grid-tied solar systems are designed to shut down automatically during a power outage. To have backup power during an outage, you must install a battery storage system.

5) Solar panels will damage the roof

- **Myth:** The installation process for solar panels will inevitably cause roof damage, such as leaks.
- **Fact:** Reputable, professional installers use specialized mounting hardware with waterproof seals to protect the roof's integrity. In fact, the panels can extend the lifespan of the covered portion of the roof by shielding it from the elements.

6) Solar panels decrease a home's value

- **Myth:** Installing solar panels will make a home less attractive to buyers and lower its resale value.
- **Fact:** Studies have shown that solar installations can increase a home's property value and help it sell faster. This is particularly true for owned systems, as buyers value the long-term energy savings.

7) Solar panels require extensive maintenance

- **Myth:** Solar panels are fragile and need frequent, time-consuming cleaning or repair.
- **Fact:** Solar panels are durable, with no moving parts, and require very little maintenance. Occasional rain often does enough to wash off dirt and dust. Most systems come with long-term warranties for added peace of mind.