



Solar + Battery Storage

Make Your Home More Resilient

Battery storage is a clean option to power your home during a power outage or shutoff. Lithium-ion batteries are the main battery storage solution on the market today.

If you have solar panels, they can charge the battery during the day with clean energy. Then, during the evening (when the grid power is more expensive and less clean), your home or business can use power from the battery.

Having solar plus battery storage allows you to store your extra solar energy rather than selling it back to the grid at wholesale prices. This gives you more control over how you use your energy. You can also reduce your carbon footprint and increase your personal resiliency.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my solar panels provide power during a power outage?

Unless you have battery storage and a special inverter (normally a DC-coupled inverter) your solar panels will not power your home. This is to prevent solar power flowing back onto the grid and protects utility workers who might be working on the grid.

Can I install a battery without solar?

Yes, you can install a battery without having solar panels. However, you will not be able to charge the battery from the grid during the power outage.

Can solar plus battery storage power my entire home during a power outage?

It depends. If you want to power your entire home, you will most likely need more than one battery. Instead of installing more batteries (which can be expensive) you can select the most important items in your home (such as refrigeration, lighting, entertainment, and communications) to power.

Can I install a battery system to existing solar panels?

Yes. There are two options:

1. You can install a separate AC-coupled inverter battery storage system (which is more common and cost effective), or
2. You can replace your current inverter with a DC-coupled inverter battery storage system (a good option if your inverter is nearing replacement).

Keep in mind that adding a battery system could require electrical upgrades to your home.

Adding a battery system would not require the existing solar panels to be re-permitted or re-inspected unless there are additional solar panels being installed. We encourage you to discuss options with a battery installer.

How will battery storage impact my net-energy-metering (NEM) credits and monthly bill?

This will vary widely depending on how the battery system is installed. We encourage customers to consult with their installer. Having a battery does not change the amount of solar produced, but it will impact the amount of energy consumed from the grid or exported to the grid.

Customers should take their rate schedule into consideration when using energy. The installation of a battery allows customers to be eligible for EV2 rate. Please note, that customers who wish to take advantage of the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) will need to switch to EV2 rate in most cases. The EV2 rate has a peak period of 4-9 PM, when grid power is more expensive than off-peak times.

Charging the battery from solar panels will impact the amount of electricity being exported to the grid from the solar system. Customers receive credits when energy is being fed back into the grid. Since the amount of solar generation going to the grid is reduced, the dollar credit will also be reduced.

No matter how your system is set up, exporting to the grid via solar or battery will produce credits and or charges. Your PG&E distribution charges will be calculated based on the energy you're using from the grid.

If the solar plus battery system is set up strictly for power outages such as PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) customers will see negligible impacts to their NEM credit balance.