



# Drilling holes on the ground for photovoltaic brackets

How do you anchor a ground mounted solar array?

By Brandon Wronski, Special To Solar Power World Various options exist for anchoring ground mounted solar arrays. These include drilled shaft piles (also called micropiles or caissons), driven piles and helical piers or ground screws.

Are helical piles good for solar panels?

Helical piles and micropiles work well in compression and tension applications and are ideally suited for solar panel installation. What are the differences between drilled shaft and helical piles? What equipment options are available for their installation?

Are helical piles a good choice for solar array anchoring?

Depending on ground conditions, helical piles can often be shorter in length and therefore cost less in installation time and energy consumption than comparable driven piles or drilled shafts. Some manufactures of helical piles for solar array anchoring assert installation rates as high as 500 piles per day.

How deep is a drilled shaft pile for a solar array?

Drilled shaft piles for solar array footings can vary anywhere from 6 to 24 inches in diameter and 5 to 30 feet deep, depending on site conditions and other variables. The drilled shaft or borehole is filled with high-strength cement grout or concrete. At times, steel casing or re-bar is used for reinforcement.

Can helical piles be drilled?

Helical piles and micropiles work well in compression and tension applications and are ideally suited for solar array anchoring. Loose materials and overburden can be drilled effectively with augers. Photo courtesy of Hammer Drilling Rigs The most efficient method for drilling the pile is determined by the depth required and ground conditions.

What are the best solar ground mounting solutions?

The five most common solar ground mounting solutions -- I-beams, helical anchors, ground screws, concrete piers and ballast-- have specific homes across the country. It really depends on what's going on in the soil underneath your feet. APA Titan racking with I-beam mounts. I-beams

Organize materials, measure, and mark drill holes for solar panel brackets, middle rail, and exterior rails (usually beginning 6" away from the roof's edge). Before mounting the panels and brackets, apply a US polymer or silicone-based ...

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photovoltaic systems ...

An appropriate mounting scheme is crucial for photovoltaic modules" effective installation and optimal function. Factors to consider when choosing a mounting option include the type of roof, such as slope roofs, wind and snow loads, ...

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