

# Making raw materials for photovoltaic panels

What materials are used in solar panels?

Copper: Thanks to high conductivity and durability, copper is essential in solar manufacturing to increase the efficiency and performance of solar panels. Silicon: Silicon is the primary mineral that solar panels use to generate electricity.

How are monocrystalline solar panels made?

Monocrystalline solar panels are produced from one large silicon block in silicon wafer formats. The manufacturing process involves cutting individual wafers of silicon that can be affixed to a solar panel. Monocrystalline silicon cells are more efficient than polycrystalline or amorphous solar cells.

What is the best material for solar panels?

Aluminum: Predominantly used as the casing for solar cells, aluminum creates the framework for most modern solar panels. It's the perfect metal for the frame because it's lightweight, conducts heat, is durable, and can be easily recycled for other uses.

How are polycrystalline solar cells made?

Polycrystalline solar cells are also silicon cells, but rather than being formed in a large block and cut into wafers, they are produced by melting multiple silicon crystals together. Many silicon molecules are melted and then re-fused together into the panel itself.

How are photovoltaic absorbers made?

The manufacturing typically starts with float glass coated with a transparent conductive layer, onto which the photovoltaic absorber material is deposited in a process called close-spaced sublimation. Laser scribing is used to pattern cell strips and to form an interconnect pathway between adjacent cells.

How are photovoltaic cells made?

The journey to manufacture photovoltaic cells begins by shaping silicon ingots into wafers. This is done with diamond-coated wire saws that are incredibly precise. The precision needed is shown by the kerf, which is lost as sawdust. Fenice Energy uses special techniques, like chemical texturing, to make each wafer absorb light better.

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