

## Taobao solar panels cost dozens of dollars

How much does a solar panel cost in China?

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## Why are Chinese solar panels so expensive?

A year ago, Chinese panels cost 26 cents per watt. China's price plunge gives manufacturers there an enormous advantage over rivals in places like the United States and Europe. US producers have been increasingly concerned by the wave of new factories in China, which could make their own uneconomical.

## How much do solar panels cost?

Panel production costs in the world's largest producer of solar energy have declined a whopping 42% from year ago, dropping as low as 15 cents per watt, according to a report by energy consultant Wood Mackenzie. That's more than 60% below the US price of 40 cents per watt, according to the report. A year ago, Chinese panels cost 26 cents per watt.

Should the US loosen restrictions on cheap Chinese solar panels?

Even with the support of subsidies and tariffs,U.S. solar manufacturers struggled to compete with the flood of cheap solar panels pouring out of China into the global market. While some argue that the U.S. should loosen restrictions on cheap Chinese solar panels to accelerate renewable energy deployment,this approach is unsustainable.

Does eschewing cheap Chinese solar panels slow the energy transition?

Though the trade dynamics of solar modules and fossil fuels differ, overwhelming reliance on any one country, particularly a hostile country, poses a real security threat. Critics of the Biden Administration's green protectionism argue that eschewing cheap Chinese solar panels slows the energy transition. This may partly be true.

Are Chinese solar panels cheaper than US solar panels?

Yet, while Chinese solar panels are 20% cheaper than their American equivalents, this number is not the difference between the success and failure of the U.S. solar energy industry. High interest rates and the permitting quagmire must also be addressed. Ending China's dominant position in the global solar market is not possible.

On average, solar panels cost \$8.77 per square foot of living space, after factoring in the 30% tax credit. However, the cost per square foot varies based on the size of the home. For example, the post-tax credit cost of solar panels for ...



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