

Frequently Asked Questions - Rooftop Solar Systems

Q1. How much area is required for GCPV systems?

A1. Rooftop solar PV systems general require 5-8m² or 50-80 sq. ft. clean shadow free area per kW to install and work. Which means that a 25kW system will require about 2,000 sq. ft. of clean shadow free rooftop area.

Q2. How much does it cost to install a rooftop solar PV system?

A2. As per latest MNRE guidelines, systems from 1-10kWp can cost upto Rs. 70,000/kWp, capacities above that cost Rs. 65,000/kWp. Which means that a 25kWp system can be installed for as low as Rs. 16,25,000/-

Q3. What are the subsidies or capital support from the government?

A3. Available benefits and subsidies on solar PV systems are very dynamic and subject to installed capacities as well as government revenues. Currently the following benefits are applicable for customers:

1. **Residential & not for profit Customers:** 30% capital subsidy on total system price.
2. **Commercial and industrial customers:** 40% accelerated depreciation benefits on total system cost

Q4. What is time required to complete solar installation?

A4. Due to customised nature of the solar PV system, it takes about 4-6 weeks to install a rooftop system. However the actual site work is limited to 1-2 weeks.

Q5. How much units of electricity will be generated from solar PV system?

A5. Though generation depends on variety of factors such as project location, module cleanliness etc. but as a rule of thumb upto 4.5 kWh per day can be generated by 1kW

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system. Hence a 25kW system will generate about 110 kWh per day and about 40,000 units per year.

Q6. What is the indicative total payback time of the project?

A6. Solar systems now offer ROI's lower than 3 years. Please refer to our document on solar benefits for detailed analysis.

Q7. What is the life span of the solar power plant?

A7. Solar PV is still considered to be a long-term investment with life expectancies of over 30 years. The solar modules that form the heart of the system are guaranteed for performance for 25 years and solar inverters that last for over 10 years are guaranteed for 5 years. So apart from changing inverters every 10 years, a well-designed solar PV system runs successfully for nearly 3 decades.

Q8. What are standard warranties and guarantees applicable on the product?

A8. As mentioned above, the two major products solar modules and inverters are guaranteed for 25 and 5 years respectively from principal manufacturers. Extended warranties maybe available if required. Other products such as structures, wires, workmanship and cables etc. form part of the consumables and come standard with warranty's upto 3 years depending upon product. However generally last much longer.

Q9. What are indicative maintenance and AMC costs for the plant?

A9. Solar power systems are known for low or zero running or maintenance costs. General maintenance includes regular cleaning of solar modules, and testing of loose wires and cables if any. In numbers this can be approximated as low as 0.5% - 1.0% of the total project cost.

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Q10. What is the importance of choosing good installer or EPC Company?

A10. Solar photovoltaic system being a long-term investment depends heavily on quality of workmanship, right mix of products and system design. Solarsmiths, being a leading engineering procurement and construction organisation with a team of formally trained solar professionals, state of the art infrastructure and adequate resources, ensures maximum returns from your solar investments.

Contact us today with all your solar needs and our expert team would be happy to assist you with your customised solution.

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