

European Solar and Energy Storage Solutions

Photovoltaic rain shield angle requirements



Overview

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To achieve the best solar panel angle, consider two vital positions: the orientation (or cardinal direction) and the angle (or vertical tilt) of your panels. Factor in both of these positions to maximize your panels' solar energy absorption and improve energy output.

The first number is the optimal tilt angle for your solar panels. This means my optimal tilt angle is 35° from horizontal. The second number is my optimal azimuth angle -- the direction I should face my solar panels -- expressed in degrees clockwise from north.

A rule of thumb for optimizing the angle of your solar panels is to mount them at an angle equivalent to the site's latitude, facing due south. The latitude of Normal, Illinois, is 40.5°. As you can see in the chart below, the peak generation from this roof is not exactly 40.5°, but is somewhere between 35-36°.

The bigger blockers tend to be shading, roof size, local electricity prices, and local solar power policies. Below, we'll get into the finer details of the ideal direction and angle for solar panels, how it varies depending on where you live, and what it takes to truly optimize your panels' electricity output. Should solar panels be angled on a low angled roof?

Flush-mounting solar panels on a low-angled roof will produce less electricity and reduce solar savings. To receive exceptional solar savings, you'll want your solar panels to be angled in a way that optimizes the sunlight exposure

for that location. This is done by tilting your solar panels at the same angle as the latitude of your home.

Can solar panels be installed at a fixed angle?

However, most solar panels installed for home use are mounted on the roof at a fixed angle. Meaning, the process of changing the angle of your solar panels with each season can be quite difficult. There are systems that can be installed that will track the axis of the sun and adjust the angle over time.

Can solar panels be installed on a low-angle roof?

Therefore, depending on how steep the angle of your roof is, the best you can do is lie your panels flat against the roof. Installing solar panels on low-angle roofs can also be complicated since they may require specialized racking if you want to tilt them at the optimal angle.

What is a good roof pitch for solar panels?

For residential rooftop solar, the available roof pitch factors into the panel tilt. The most common roof pitches on U.S. homes range from 3-in-12 (14 degree) low slope to 6-in-12 (26.6 degree) steep slope, with 4-in-12 (18.4 degrees) and 5-in-12 (22.6 degrees) being very typical for asphalt shingle roofs.

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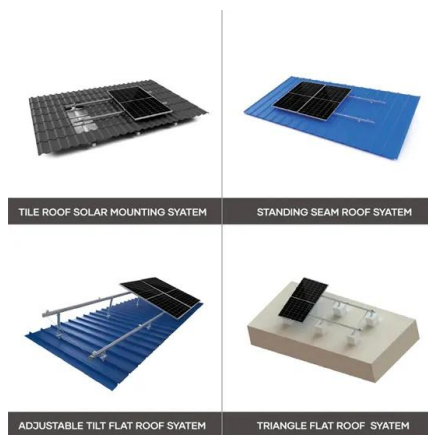


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