

## Get Solar..



**Solar electricity on your roof top has quickly become a part of the great Australian dream. More than one million homes in Australia are now generating their own clean energy.** It's a great way to reduce your environmental impact and manage your household's electricity bills.

There are many things to consider before you purchase solar PV for your household. The Clean Energy Council of Australia has an easy to follow and free [Guide to installing PV for households](#). More information:

1. Check the Jacana Energy [website](#) for details relating to tariffs, fees and approvals.
2. [Solar Citizens](#) has some super friendly FAQs about Solar in Australia

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**FACT: In the Northern Territory only 3008 households have a solar electricity system, despite having some of the best solar access in the country!**

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## Do your research... What is the difference?

Over the 20+ year life of your solar panels, it is hard to say which type of panel will produce the most power. Use this guide to help you decide which panels you buy.

### Space

Thin film panels will take up a little more room on your roof than mono-crystalline panels. For example, a 1.5 kW system of mono-crystalline panels will need 8-9 m<sup>2</sup> where as the newest thin film panels require 11-12 m<sup>2</sup>.

With this in mind, the more roof space that is covered in panels, the more shade the roof will get from direct sunlight (meaning your roof will be protected).

### Power Output

There is often debate over the varying pros and cons between the systems. Studies in 2011 by Power and Water however revealed that in all the roof top panels assed in Darwin there was no difference in output between the types of solar panels. This study investigated the PV output of 300 households (out of the 800 homes in Darwin with solar power) (see COOLmob's [December 2011 Newsletter](#) for the results).

## **Temperature**

Thin film panels perform better at higher temperatures

## **Shade**

Thin film panels will work better when partially shaded (for example, in the wet season when there are cloudy days).