

## SolarInnovate Energy Solutions

# How to choose the capacity of photovoltaic inverter



## Overview

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When sizing an inverter, calculate the total wattage needed and understand surge vs. continuous power. Choose the right size with a 20% safety margin. How do I choose the right solar inverter size?

When it comes to solar inverter sizing, installers will consider three primary factors: the size of your solar array, geography, and site-specific conditions. The size of your solar array is the most important factor in determining the appropriate size for your solar inverter.

Can a solar inverter be bigger than the DC rating?

The size of your solar inverter can be larger or smaller than the DC rating of your solar array, to a certain extent. The array-to-inverter ratio of a solar panel system is the DC rating of your solar array divided by the maximum AC output of your inverter. For example, if your array is 6 kW with a 6000 W inverter, the array-to-inverter ratio is 1.

What is a solar power inverter?

A solar power inverter is an essential element of a photovoltaic system that makes electricity produced by solar panels usable in the home. It is responsible for converting the direct current (DC) output produced by solar panels into alternating current (AC) that can be used by household appliances and can be fed back into the electrical grid.

How to choose the right inverter power?

**Avoids Overloading:** By selecting the right inverter power with a safety margin, you prevent overtaxing the system and potential breakdowns. To guarantee a reliable power supply, it is essential to align the continuous output of the inverter with or surpass the total wattage requirements of all connected devices.

What is the array-to-inverter ratio of a solar panel system?

The array-to-inverter ratio of a solar panel system is the DC rating of your solar array divided by the maximum AC output of your inverter. For example, if your array is 6 kW with a 6000 W inverter, the array-to-inverter ratio is 1. If you install the same-sized array with a 5000 inverter, the ratio is 1.2.

What ratio should a 5000 inverter have?

If you install the same-sized array with a 5000 inverter, the ratio is 1.2. Most installations will have a ratio between 1.15 to 1.25; inverter manufacturers and solar system designers typically do not recommend a ratio higher than 1.55. Below are some examples of solar inverter products and their maximum DC power output recommendation:

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### How to Choose Inverter for Solar Panel: 6 Essential Tips for ...

Jul 23, 2025 · This guide explains how to choose an inverter for solar panels, including types (grid-tied, hybrid, off-grid), sizing tips, smart features, and compatibility factors to help you ...

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### How to Choose the Right Size Solar Inverter: Step-by-Step ...

Jul 15, 2025 · Wondering what size solar inverter do I need for your solar system? This guide walks you through calculating inverter size based on panel capacity, power usage, and safety ...



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