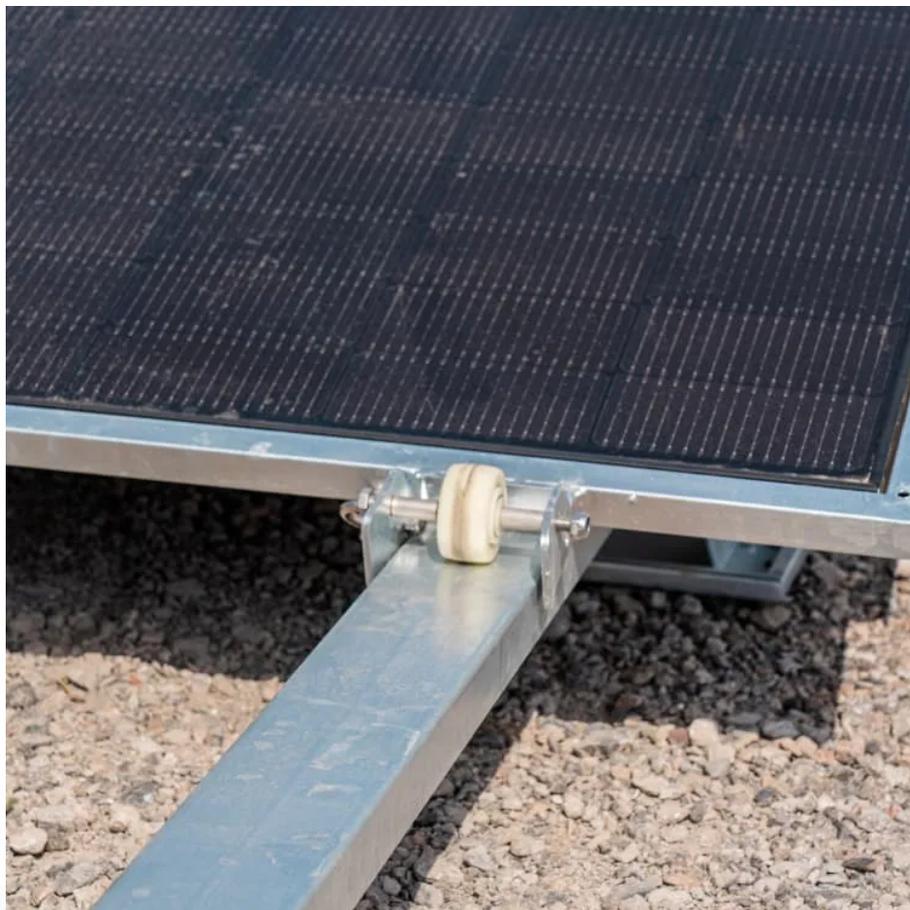


How big an inverter should I use at home





Overview

Do I need an inverter size chart?

The need for an inverter size chart first became apparent when researching our DIY solar generator build. Solar generators range in size from small generators for short camping trips to large off-grid power systems for a boat or house. Consequently, inverter sizes vary greatly.

How big should a solar inverter be?

To account for power losses assume an 80 percent efficiency. Your solar inverter should have a similar or slightly higher wattage rating than the DC output of your solar panels (which in this case is 4.5 kW). You can size it between 1.15 and 1.5 times larger. The rule of thumb is to size your inverter 1.25 bigger than your solar array.

How much power does an inverter need?

For example, if your total running wattage is 2200W and your surge wattage adds another 400W, your total power requirement is 2600W. Inverters typically operate at an efficiency of around 85%-95%. To ensure your inverter can handle your total load, divide your total power consumption by the inverter's efficiency.

Can a solar inverter be too big?

Oversizing or having an inverter that is too big for your solar panels will not produce enough electricity. Undersizing or having an inverter that's too small will convert a limited amount of energy. You can avoid both of these scenarios by following these three basic steps to solar inverter sizing.



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