

Solar photovoltaic (or PV for short) panels use light from the sun to generate free electricity during the day. You can use this electricity in your home to power electrical appliances, or even an electric vehicle. They generate most electricity when it's sunny but will still produce electricity when it is cloudy.

Over the year the panels should reduce your electricity bills, your carbon emissions and your reliance on the National Grid. This will help protect you from electricity price rises.

You will make bigger savings if you adapt your electricity use to make the most out of them. For example, charge electrical items during the day, not overnight and if you have an electric shower, use it during the day rather than after dark.



Use electrical items during daylight hours

- Save jobs that use most electricity (such as ironing, vacuuming, cooking or washing clothes) for the middle of the day.
- Charge electrical items (phones, electric toothbrushes etc.) during daylight hours.
- If you have an electric cooker, cook and eat a hot meal in the daytime, or reheat it in the evening.
- If you have an electric shower, use it during the day rather than after dark.
- Remember that your panels will produce most electricity when it is sunny, so this is the best time to use electrical appliances.

Use one major appliance at a time during daylight hours

Even when it's sunny, your panels may not provide enough free electricity to power more than one major appliance (e.g. cooker, vacuum, kettle, iron, washing machine, tumble drier, dishwasher) at a time.

Solar PV

So, for example, in the daytime:

- Vacuum after the washing machine has finished, not at the same time.
- Have a shower before you turn the washing machine on.

The number of appliances you can power for free depends on the size of the panels, their location and the weather. Also, different types of appliances use different amounts of electricity so it's not always possible to say exactly what you can use for free.

