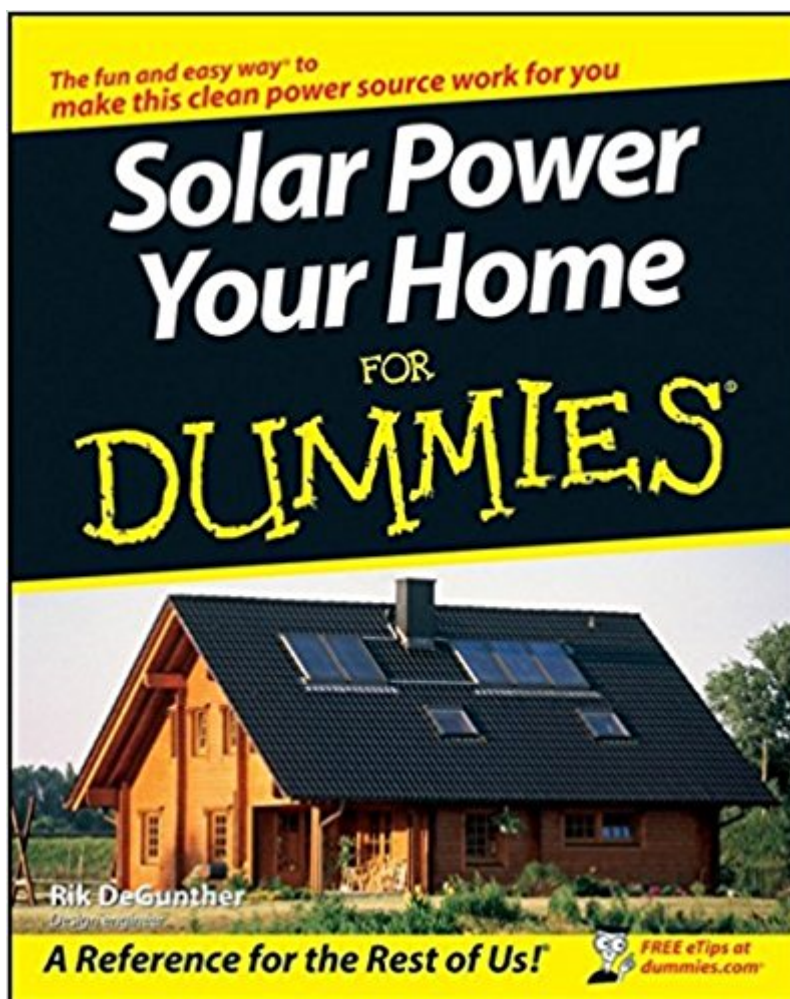


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# Solar Power Your Home For Dummies



## Synopsis

Want to take advantage of solar power in your home? Whether you're looking to save on your energy costs by adding a few solar components or you want to build a solar-powered house from the ground up, *Solar Power For Dummies* takes the mystery out of this energy source and shows you how to put it to work for you! This friendly, hands-on guide is packed with tips for making your home more energy-efficient through solar power and helping the planet at the same time. You'll see how to survey your home to determine your current household energy efficiency and use, and evaluate where solar power would best benefit you. You'll also calculate what the return on your investment will be before you make any decisions. Once you've decided on a project, you'll see whether it's best to hire a contractor or do it yourself. We leave no stone unturned • you'll also discover how to:

- Choose and install your best solar system
- Handle small to large solar projects
- Heat and cool your house with solar energy
- Install exterior solar lighting
- Handle swimming pool, water heater, or ventilation solar projects
- Create greenhouses or solar rooms
- Build, buy, or sell a solar home
- Finance your solar investments
- Take advantage of tax rebates and incentives associated with solar power
- Avoid the worst solar mistakes

Featuring ten of the easiest and cheapest do-it-yourself solar projects, *Solar Power For Dummies* is the fun and easy way to meet your energy needs with this clean power source!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Features the ten best solar investments Make your home energy efficient and put solar power to work for you! Want to take advantage of solar power? This friendly, hands-on guide takes the mystery out of this energy source and shows you how to do everything from adding small components to your home to building a solar-powered house from the ground up. You'll see how to heat and cool your home, create solar rooms, install solar lighting, and much more. Discover how to:

- Choose the best solar system for your needs
- Handle small to large solar projects
- Build, buy, or sell a solar home
- Finance your solar investments
- Avoid the worst solar mistakes

Rik DeGunther is the founder of Efficient Homes, an energy consultant firm that focuses on home energy audits and the design of efficient heating and cooling systems.

This is a good introduction to how the energy from the sun can be put to practical everyday use. If you don't like to read a lot of technical stuff, this book is for you. Quick, easy reading the non-technical average person. with references for more information. This book has practical projects for the person who already has some knowledge of solar energy as well. If you're looking for a really detailed technical book of how to design and install your own solar collector (electrical or water), better get a different book. My 5-star rating is for those who are beginners or those that have a little knowledge of solar energy.

Excellent book, exactly as advertised. I just wish it went into more detail about required wattage for small projects. I want one small unit to recharge my 12v battery to run my cpap for 8 hrs a night and a small to medium unit to run heaters or fans, and many a modern upright freezer, or one medium unit which would do both. But do I toy around with a 5w and a 15w, or go up to a 45w? So far at least I can't find such reference info in the book. But I have learned a great deal and really appreciate the help.

I'm about halfway thru this book and all it seems to have is VERY general information that could be found with a simple search online. There is also way to much global warming/ carbon footprint preaching. Do not buy.

This did not tell me what to do to set-up and power my home with solar. I want to see how to install the panels! How to wire the panels. Combiner boxes? Lighting arresters, how many and where?

How many ground rods? Batteries? How many volts 12, 24, 36, 48? Inverters anybody? What about wire size? When it's done will it pass the national electric code? Will it power the well, the freezer and fridge, the TV and lites at the same time? Oven? I gave this book to the dumbest guy I know three years ago and he has not even started yet.

I use to read Mother Earth News 30 years ago, I now belong to the local chapter of the Electric Auto Association, have installed solar light tubes, and solar hot water to my home so this book was light weight for me. Battery technology and charging station technology are changing so fast that the best way to get into solar energy is to join a group like EAA and listen to the speakers. The engineers can be difficult but those who are actually building electric vehicles or adding solar energy items to their homes can answer your questions. With a lot of help from EAA members I built an electric bike. The best part of this book was the author explaining that you don't want to go completely off the grid unless you have to. The difficulty and expense of being completely independent is very great.

Great book for a dollar! I've always been interested in solar power and this covers it all, not just electricity and panels on your roof. It's also a great book for saving energy in the home in general, because you need to be efficient if you want to take advantage of solar. Then when you are ready to go big time with the panels this will be an invaluable tool to do it yourself, correctly. I can't wait to cover up my perfectly south facing-side of my roof. Oops, spoiler alert.

The book has a lot of valuable content, but is definitely for the beginner. Most of the projects in the book recommend you purchase a "kit" and then walk you through an install. If you want simple ideas, this is great. If you are looking for more in depth information on solar or info on how to create or install a whole house -off grid - system, you should look else where.

I hadn't purchased a Dummie book in a couple of years and decided to try to get up to speed on solar. Previously Dummie books allowed me to get into the flow of the subject quickly. Baby stepping me so that by the time I got through the book, I could keep pedaling all by myself. After finishing this book, I really didn't feel like I had much more understanding than when I started, to do a solar project of any size. I wanted to understand the pieces of a PV setup. I just didn't get enough to feel confident after finishing this. There seemed to be more reference this and reference that rather than this is a pv panel. It is black and white, The black is this and here is why. I still don't understand what to do with that panel exactly.. Maybe to detail was there I just didn't see it as clearly as past

subjects. Anyway, I just didn't get the hand holding baby steps I needed to clarify the subject and allow me to become a solar panel installer when I was done.

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