

# Home Batteries:

## 10 Things You Need to Know



### Reduce Peak Energy Use

Electricity demand and prices are often lower during the day than in the evening. With a system like the Tesla Powerwall, you can store energy from the grid during the day to use in the evening.



### Have A Backup



Power may go out when there's a storm or other type of disaster. A home battery system can act as a generator — and it takes up far less space and is silent, with no emissions.



### You Need The Grid

Right now, a home battery can keep the lights on and the refrigerator cold but isn't powerful enough to run your air conditioner or clothes dryer. The battery system can't replace all the electricity you get from the grid.

### More Than You Can Store?

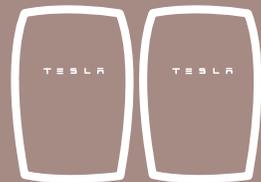
If you generate more power — from your solar panels, etc. — than you can use or store, you may be able to sell it back to the grid for an adjustment on your electric bill. Check with your utility.



### Is It Worth It?

Be sure to do the math before you buy a home battery. Using it may cost up to 2.5 times more than buying electricity from your utility. If you already have solar panels, or plan to install them, batteries might be a good addition. If you have frequent outages, a home battery may help.

### How Much?



The Tesla Powerwall 7 kWh model starts at \$3,000, and the 10 kWh model is about \$3,500. But batteries are only part of the cost of a storage unit.

### When The Sun Doesn't Shine



Energy storage is a great option if you have solar panels. Store extra power produced from sunshine during the day, and use it at night when no energy is produced from your panels.



### Talk To Your Utility

Your public power utility knows best, and cares about what's important to you. They are not out to make a profit. Ask your utility to explain the pros and cons of installing home batteries and help you make a wise decision.

### Go Shopping



Right now, it's the Tesla Powerwall. Mercedes says it will offer home batteries in Sept. 2015. General Electric and many other companies may also enter the market — shop before you buy.

### Added Costs

You need an "inverter" to convert direct current from solar panels to the alternating current used in your home. So the total cost of a storage unit can go up to \$7,000. Plus, you have to pay for labor, installation, controls, and more.



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