

## ContainerPower Energy Solutions

# Thin-film solar inverters



## Overview

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What are thin film solar panels used for?

Besides large-scale industrial applications, thin film panels can also be used for off-grid solar projects, such as the rooftop of your van or RV. Thin-film panels have been seen used for folding solar panel kits and flexible solar panels. Their material makes it easier to apply to a vehicle and to store away in smaller spaces.

Are thin-film solar panels a good choice?

Thin-film solar cells have built-in semiconductors, making them the solar panels the lightest panels available. However, they don't operate as efficiently as crystalline solar panels, so you need more to generate the same amount of electricity.

How much do thin-film solar panels cost?

Thin-film solar panels cost an average of \$0.50 to \$1 per watt for the materials. For example, an average thin-film system would consist of ten panels. The total cost of these panels including materials and installation averages between \$2,000 and \$8,800, depending on the thin-film technology you use and how many you install.

What are the different types of thin-film solar panels?

Before comparing the different types of thin-film solar panels against crystalline silicon solar panels (c-Si), it is important to remark that there are two main types, monocrystalline silicon (mono c-Si) and polycrystalline silicon (poly c-Si) solar panels.

What materials are used for thin-film solar panels?

There are four different types of materials used for thin-film solar panels: Cadmium telluride is the most commonly used substrate in manufacturing thin-film panels. In fact, it holds 50% of market share. These panels have an

efficiency range between 9% and 11%, but some have seen up to 18.7% efficiency ratings.

How efficient are a-Si thin-film solar panels?

Through the manufacturing process of “stacking” several layers, the efficiency of a-Si thin-film solar panels has gone up to 6% to 8%. Amorphous silicon is the second most commonly used in thin-film technology. It is also less toxic and has better durability for thin-film panels. The word “amorphous” literally means shapeless.

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