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Are Residential Solar Panels Still Worth It in 2026? Here's What I Found

I've been researching residential solar over the past few weeks because electricity bills seem to keep increasing every year. Almost every installer says you'll save money, but I wanted to understand the real picture before making any decisions.

After reading quite a bit, here's what I found.

1. Your Roof Matters More Than the Brand

Initially, I assumed choosing the "best" solar panel brand was the most important decision. It turns out that roof orientation, shading, available space, and system design often have a bigger impact on overall energy production than the panel brand itself.

Has anyone here experienced a noticeable difference because of roof direction or shading?

2. Bigger Isn't Always Better

Many people think installing the largest possible system is the best investment.

From what I've learned, the ideal system size depends on:

- Monthly electricity consumption
- Future energy needs
- Roof space
- Local net-metering regulations
- Budget

Oversizing a system doesn't always provide the best return on investment.

3. Installation Quality Seems More Important Than Marketing

One thing I noticed is that experienced installers spend more time discussing:

- Structural safety
- Cable routing
- Inverter placement
- Future maintenance
- Shadow analysis

Instead of simply offering the cheapest quote.

Has anyone here regretted choosing a company based only on price?

4. Government Subsidies Help, But They're Not the Only Reason

The available subsidy certainly reduces the initial investment, but the biggest financial benefit still comes from years of reduced electricity bills.

For people planning to stay in the same house for a long time, the numbers appear much more attractive.

5. Maintenance Appears Simpler Than I Expected

I originally assumed rooftop solar required frequent servicing.
Instead, most homeowners seem to report only occasional panel cleaning and periodic inspections, provided quality equipment was installed correctly.

My Biggest Question

For those who already have residential rooftop solar:

- How much did your monthly electricity bill decrease?
- Was the installation process smooth?
- Would you do anything differently if you installed a new system today?

I've also been reading practical installation guides like this one on residential solar installation in Gurugram , which explains the installation process, system planning, and what homeowners should consider before choosing an installer. I found it useful as background reading while comparing different options.

I'd really like to hear real-world experiences rather than marketing claims. What has your experience with residential solar been like?