

# What are the metal strips inside photovoltaic panels

What are the metals in a solar panel?

When it comes to the metals in a solar panel, we have the internal metals found in the solar cells and the external metals on the exterior of the solar panel itself. One of the most important and common metals in a solar panel is the silicon semiconductor in solar cells. Silicon metal sits in the middle of being a conductor and an insulator.

How do solar panels work?

1. Anatomy of a solar cell Solar panels capture sunlight and convert it to electricity using photovoltaic (PV) cells like the one illustrated above. Such cells, which can power everything from calculators to cars (our example will be a house), have several components. First, and most obviously, are two layers of silicon.

How are solar panels made?

Solar panels are made up of solar cells, and this is where the layers come in. The layers of a solar cell include a metal plate at the bottom of the cell, one or two different types of semiconductors, a metal grid above the semiconductors, an anti-reflection coating, and a layer of glass.

How are crystalline photovoltaic panels made?

Crystalline photovoltaic panels are made by gluing several solar cells (typically 1.5 W each) onto a plate, as can be seen in Figure 1, and connecting them in series and parallel until voltages of 12 V, 24 V or higher are obtained. They are capable of delivering powers of even several hundred watts. Figure 1: A monocrystalline photovoltaic panel.

How does a photovoltaic panel produce electricity?

In a photovoltaic panel, electrical energy is obtained by photovoltaic effect from elementary structures called photovoltaic cells; each cell is a PN-junction semiconductor diode constructed so that the junction is exposed to light and unpolarized.

What are the components of a photovoltaic cell?

A photovoltaic cell consists of several components: silicon layers, metal backing, antireflective coating, and metal conductor strips. This NOVA video explores these components using animations. Learn why the silicon layers are doped with phosphorous and boron, and how an electric field is used to generate electricity from sunlight.

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