

## Prius solar panels

Location: Sunnyvale, California. Vehicle: 2006 Prius. The solar panel driving a ventilation fan will make the car much more pleasant to enter on a hot day. It will also reduce the sun damage to the interior for cars left out in the sun in hot climates. A luxury, but so are a lot of other things that people buy.

The 20W and 30 W panels just don't cut it. They will do a nice job of doing what you describe, however. Think about it this way. It takes about 200Wh to move a Prius a mile. Most places in the US get at least 5 hours of quality sunlight/day. So you'd need at least 40 W and 5 hours of sunlight to go one mile.

Without cost-optimizing, it would be \$200 (inverter) + \$600 (solar mats) + \$420 (capacitors) + \$90 (charge controller). Plus a metal box to contain the obvious fire hazard of bodged together electronics and some wire and about \$20 of electronics. Questions for those knowledgeable about the Prius: a.

2015 Prius. Model: Two. Yes, it's the same option as was available on previous Gen III Prii. If equipped, the Prius will feature a solar panel on the roof of the vehicle used to power a small fan. The fan will help keep the interior of the vehicle closer to ambient temperature when parked. IMHO, it's not worth it.

Vehicle: 2012 Prius. The issue is weight, not durability. The solar panel option means you can't get the car from Toyota with the heavier wheels for example. As far as breaking, it's tempered glass, which means if it breaks it does so into small "granules", unable to slice you open, though they can puncture skin.

Typical solar panels are set up for 12V DC output. You would need an inverter to convert that to at least 115VAC to charge a Prime. That's one problem. Then there's the power problem. An optimally set up solar panel (portable) would output about 40W. To noticeably charge the Prime you need about 800W, maybe more.

Practicle: no. One solar panel you may get 320Wp and that will cover the whole roof. 320W will not even power the AC when it is properly working. You could rig it to charge the main battery so it gets charged when you're parked as well, but again, you don't get a lot. #2 Maarten28, Jun 14, 2019.

Model: N/A. The Prius Gen2 uses a DC Converter to charge the 12V auxiliary battery using power from the HV battery when needed. I do not see much point in using a solar panel for this application. However I use a solar panel mounted on the inside of the rear hatch window to power a series of fans to cool down the cabin.

The solar roof on the 2023 Prius Prime is the same size as the older 2017 Prius Prime so the new solar roof should put out about 188W or close to 190W. Pretty impressive since cheap solar panels on a roof are about 15 - 18% while top performing ones (read: more expensive ones) get about 21 - 22%. Click to expand...

I'm getting solar panels installed, but without a battery (they offered one, but it's now back-ordered for a



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year). It costs me about \$30/mo to charge the Prius Prime. Solar won't drop that at all if I end up charging it at night w/o a battery. (Well, maybe \$1/mo.) So I'm curious about a dedicated setup just for the car.

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