

Solar Panels on Boats

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Solar panels should only be used for charging batteries as their output is very variable. This makes them unsuitable to be used for propulsion.

Solar panels are sensitive to salt water. You should only use panels designed for a marine environment. They are sealed to prevent salt water damage. You cannot walk on them without damaging them. Put them in a non-traffic location.

Solar panels from reputable manufacturers will come with [IEC 61701](#) certification. This means that they can stand the effects of salt mist. The IEC 61701 standard has six levels of corrosion resistance, with Level 6 being the highest level of corrosion resistance. Datasheets of solar panels will note if they have been IEC 61701 certified, and at which level. It is also good to check how the warranty on your solar panels covers salt and corrosion damage.