

## Solar Batteries in Somerset West: Powering Your Future

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### Why Solar Battery Storage Matters More Than Ever

You're brewing coffee during Somerset West's infamous morning fog when the power cuts out. Again. Across the Helderberg basin, 43% of households experienced >6 hours of load shedding last month alone. But here's the kicker - those with home battery systems barely noticed.

Eskom's recent 18.65% tariff hike changed the game. Solar pioneer Jan van Riebeeck (no relation to the historical figure) installed a 10kWh system in Parel Vallei last quarter. His monthly electricity bill? R287 compared to R2,300 previously. "It's not just about savings," he told me over rooibos at the Bridge House Market. "It's about keeping my daughter's asthma machine running during outages."

### The Nuts and Bolts of Photovoltaic Storage

Modern solar batteries Somerset West installations typically use lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) chemistry. Unlike your smartphone battery, these workhorses can handle 6,000+ charge cycles. Let's break it down:

- Daytime: Solar panels feed excess energy into batteries
- Night: Stored power runs essential circuits
- Outages: Automatic switchover in

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