

# Microinverters and string inverters





## Overview

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This article provides a comprehensive analysis to compare microinverters and string inverters in all aspects, from electrical topology, grid-tied control, and thermal design to IRR calculation, and offers a checklist for selection, compliance, and risk control. What is the difference between a microinverter and a string inverter?

- Microinverters: Allow for maximum energy harvest, as each panel works independently. This makes them ideal for systems with varying panel orientations or mismatched panels.
- String Inverters: Energy production is limited by the weakest-performing panel in the string. They are better suited for uniform panel installations in unobstructed areas.

How do string inverters work?

String inverters are wired to strings of solar panels, with one string inverter installed on the side of your home. Microinverters are best for complex solar installations that are on multiple sides of a roof or that will experience shading, while string inverters are best for simple installations. What do solar inverters do?

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What is a micro inverter?

Microinverters are compact inverters installed on the back of each solar panel in a PV system. Unlike string inverters, microinverters work independently for each panel. A Micro inverter connects to individual panels reducing potential shading. This micro pictured connects to two panels.

Are microinverters bad?

Another thing to note about microinverters is that they may cause you to experience “clipping”, when the solar panel produces more power than an inverter is capable of handling. While this does technically cause energy loss, solar systems are designed with these specifications in mind. What are string



inverters?



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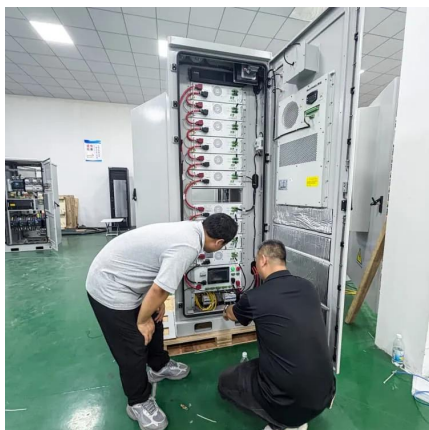


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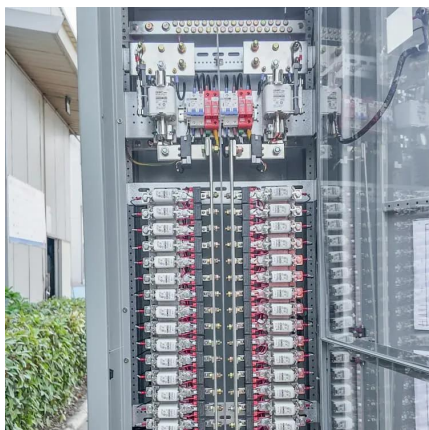


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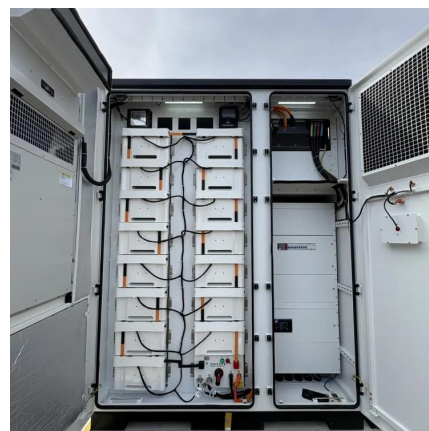


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