BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

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Solar Myths vs Reality — Hail, Resale Value, Maintenance

The straight story on the claims you'll hear — scary and rosy alike — so facts drive your decision

Plain-English solar help from:

Bill's Home Tech

Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Most solar myths are a kernel of truth stretched too far. Hail rarely damages quality, hail-tested panels, though you should confirm your homeowner's insurance covers the system. Panels need little maintenance — occasional cleaning or snow clearing, a glance at the monitoring app, and maybe an inverter replacement over the decades.

Owned solar usually helps resale, but a lease or PPA the buyer must assume can complicate a sale. Ohio's cloudy winters cut production in the dark months, but the full-year total works fine. "Free power" and "no more bill" are overpromises — expect a much smaller bill, not zero.

And panels are safe to live under, with end-of-life recycling still growing. When you hear a bold claim, ask whether it's always, usually, or only sometimes true, and whether it's current and Ohio-specific. Bill has no stake in your choice and will give you the straight story.

1 The Short Version

Solar comes wrapped in myths — some spread by overeager salespeople, some by worried skeptics, and some just passed around the neighborhood until they feel true. A few of these myths scare good candidates away from solar; others lure people into bad deals. This guide sorts the common ones into myth and reality, calmly, so you can decide based on facts rather than fears or hype.

The honest truth usually sits in the middle. Hail rarely wrecks quality panels, but "solar never needs a thing" is also overblown. Owned solar can help resale, but a lease can complicate a sale. Bill does not sell solar and has no stake in your decision — this is simply the straight story on the claims you will hear.

- Hail rarely damages quality, hail-tested panels — but no roof is truly indestructible.
- Panels need little maintenance, mostly occasional cleaning and snow clearing.

- Owned solar can add to home value; a lease can complicate a sale.
- Many scary myths and many rosy promises are both exaggerations — the truth is in between.

> **TIP**
> When you hear a bold claim about solar — good or bad — ask "is that always true, or usually, or only sometimes?" Most solar myths are a kernel of truth stretched too far in one direction. Pulling them back to "usually" or "it depends" gets you to reality.

2 Myth: Hail Will Destroy Your Panels

Many people in Ohio worry that our storms — especially hail — will smash an expensive roof full of panels. It is a reasonable fear, but in reality quality solar panels are surprisingly tough. Reputable panels are tested to withstand hail impacts, with a layer of tempered glass built to take a beating, and serious hail damage to good panels is uncommon.

That does not mean panels are indestructible; an extreme storm can damage almost anything, and cheaper off-brand panels may be less robust. But the everyday hail and wind we get in Northeast Ohio rarely harms well-made, properly installed panels. Your homeowner's insurance typically can cover storm damage to a roof-mounted system, which is worth confirming.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Quality panels carry ratings for hail impact and wind, part of the testing that stands behind their warranties. This is one reason sticking with established, named equipment matters — the cheapest panels may skimp on exactly the durability that protects you in an Ohio storm.

3 Reality: Insurance and Extreme Storms

While routine hail is rarely a problem, it is sensible to understand the storm picture fully rather than assume either doom or invincibility. A truly severe storm can damage panels, just as it can damage anything on your roof, and that is where insurance comes in.

- Roof-mounted solar is often covered under your homeowner's policy, like the rest of your roof — confirm with your insurer.
- Tell your insurance company when you add solar, so your coverage reflects it.
- Keep your system's documents and photos in case you ever need to make a claim.
- Extreme, rare storms can cause damage; everyday Ohio weather usually does not.

WATCH OUT

Do not assume solar is automatically covered or automatically excluded — call your insurer and ask directly when you add a system. A quick conversation now prevents a nasty surprise after a storm. Get any coverage details in writing.

4 Myth: Panels Need Constant Maintenance

Some people avoid solar imagining a needy system demanding constant attention. In reality, solar panels are about as low-maintenance as home equipment gets. They have no moving parts, sit still on your roof, and mostly just work. For most homeowners, upkeep amounts to the occasional glance at the monitoring app and clearing off heavy debris or snow.

Ohio rain does a fair job of rinsing ordinary dust off panels on a sloped roof. Heavy snow will stop production until it slides or melts, but climbing up to clear it is usually not worth the risk — the lost winter production is modest. The one piece of equipment more likely to need attention over the decades is the inverter, which is why its warranty matters.

TIP

Resist any pitch for an expensive "maintenance plan" that solar supposedly must have. Everyday solar needs very little, and cleaning is occasional at most. Spend your attention on choosing good equipment and a lasting installer instead.

5 Reality: The Little Upkeep There Is

"Low maintenance" is not "no maintenance," so here is the honest short list of what solar actually asks of you over the years. None of it is burdensome, and most of it is just paying a little attention.

- Occasionally check the monitoring app to confirm the system is producing normally.
- Keep an eye out for heavy debris, leaves, or snow smothering the panels — but clear them safely, if at all.
- Expect the inverter may need service or replacement sometime over the system's life.
- Have a professional take a look if production drops unexpectedly or a fault shows.

GOOD TO KNOW

The monitoring app is your early-warning system. A sudden, unexplained drop in production is the main sign something needs attention, which is why having monitoring included — and knowing how to glance at it — is genuinely useful.

6 Myth: Solar Ruins or Doesn't Affect Resale

You will hear two opposite claims about solar and home value: that it always boosts your home's worth, and that it does nothing or even hurts. As usual, reality is in between, and the single biggest factor is whether you own the system or lease it.

An owned system — paid off, or a loan you clear at sale — can add to a home's appeal and value, since the buyer inherits lower electric bills with no strings attached. The

research and the real-estate experience generally point to owned solar being a modest plus. The picture changes with a lease or PPA, which we cover next.

GOOD TO KNOW

Owned solar tends to help resale because the buyer gets the benefit free and clear. The size of the boost varies by market and buyer, so treat it as a reasonable plus, not a guaranteed windfall. Keep your documents handy to show a buyer exactly what they are getting.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

7 Reality: A Lease Can Complicate a Sale

Here is the part that gets glossed over. If your panels are leased or on a PPA, selling your home gets more complicated, because that long contract is tied to the house. A buyer typically must agree to take over the lease, and not every buyer wants to — which can slow a sale or become a sticking point at closing.

- A leased or PPA system means the buyer must assume the remaining contract.
- Some buyers hesitate, which can complicate or delay the sale.
- Transferring a lease involves the leasing company's approval and paperwork.
- Owned solar avoids this entirely — nothing to transfer, the buyer simply inherits it.

WATCH OUT

If you may sell your home within the lifetime of a solar contract, weigh the lease-versus-own question heavily. A long lease tied to your roof is one of the more common solar headaches at resale. Our "four ways to pay" guide covers this trade in full.

8 Myth: Solar Doesn't Work in Cloudy Ohio Winters

A common worry is that Ohio is too cloudy and snowy for solar to make sense at all. It is true that our winters are darker and our skies cloudier than sunbelt states, and production does dip in winter. But "makes less in winter" is very different from "doesn't work." Modern panels still generate useful power on overcast days, just less than in full sun.

What matters is the full-year total, not the gloomiest week. Ohio's bright spring, summer, and fall production more than carry the year, and a properly modeled estimate already accounts for our cloudy spells and winter dip. Solar genuinely works in Ohio — it simply has a seasonal rhythm, strong in the sunny months and quieter in deep winter.

GOOD TO KNOW

Panels actually run a touch more efficiently in cold air than in extreme heat, so a crisp, sunny Ohio winter day is not the write-off people expect — the limiting factor is shorter days and snow cover, not the cold itself. The honest number to look at is always the full-year production estimate.

9 Myth: You'll Have Free Power / No More Bill

On the rosy side, one of the most common overpromises is that solar means free electricity or no more electric bill. This one lures people into expecting more than they will get. In reality, a grid-connected home keeps a connection to the utility, and that comes with charges, plus you still draw grid power at night and on dark days.

A well-sized system substantially shrinks your electric bill, which is a real and worthwhile benefit. But it rarely erases it, because of fixed connection and delivery charges and your nighttime usage. Anyone promising a zero bill, or truly free power, is stretching the truth — expect a smaller bill, not no bill.

WATCH OUT

"No more electric bill" is a classic overpromise. Expect solar to reduce your bill, often substantially, not eliminate it. If a pitch leans on a zero-bill promise, treat the rest of its numbers with extra skepticism and get them in writing.

10 Myth: Solar Panels Are Toxic and Can't Be Recycled

Some worry that panels are hazardous or simply become junk at end of life. The everyday reality is more reassuring: standard silicon panels sitting on your roof are inert and safe to live beneath, and they do not leak anything into your home or yard during their decades of use. They are glass, aluminum, and silicon for the most part.

At the end of their long life, panels can be recycled, and recycling programs and options continue to grow as more systems reach retirement age. It is a developing area rather than a solved one, but the idea that panels are toxic waste you live under is not accurate. For the 25-plus years they are on your roof, they just quietly make power.

GOOD TO KNOW

End-of-life recycling for panels is still maturing, so it is fair to call it a work in progress rather than perfect. But during their working life, panels on your roof are stable and safe — this myth confuses a far-off disposal question with everyday risk, and the two are not the same.

11 A Quick Myth-vs-Reality Scorecard

Here is the whole picture on one page, so you can glance back at it whenever you hear a bold claim. Notice how often the truth is "usually" or "it depends," rather than the absolute the claim insists on.

You'll hear...	The reality
"Hail will destroy them"	Quality panels are hail-tested; serious damage is uncommon
"They need constant upkeep"	Very low maintenance; mostly occasional cleaning and a glance at the app
"Solar always boosts resale"	Owned solar usually helps; a lease can complicate a sale
"Too cloudy in Ohio"	Makes less in winter, but the full-year total works fine
"Free power / no bill"	Bills shrink substantially, but rarely to zero
"Panels are toxic junk"	Safe in use; end-of-life recycling is growing

Keep this scorecard in mind and most solar claims lose their power to scare or dazzle you. The reality is that solar is a solid, unspectacular technology with real benefits and real limits — neither a miracle nor a menace.

12 Why Myths Stick Around

It is worth a moment to see why these myths persist, because understanding that helps you shrug them off. Some are kept alive by salespeople who benefit from either the scary version or the rosy one. Others simply spread between neighbors, where one bad experience or one glowing story gets told and retold until it sounds like a universal rule.

Solar also changes over time — equipment improves, prices move, and rules like the tax credit change — so an outdated story can linger long after it stopped being true. When you hear a confident claim, it is always fair to ask how recent it is and whether it fits Ohio's current rules. The facts of 2026 are not the facts of five years ago.

WATCH OUT

If a claim about solar has you either worried or excited, it is worth checking before it drives a big decision. I am glad to tell you plainly whether a given claim holds up in Ohio today — with no stake in talking you into or out of anything.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

13 Myth: Solar Will Wreck Your Roof

The worry sounds reasonable — you are bolting things through the roof, after all. But a properly installed system does not ruin a sound roof, and the holes are not left to chance. The reality is about the quality of the work, not the panels themselves.

The myth	The reality
Bolting panels down means leaks	Each mount is sealed with proper flashing designed to shed water
Panels ruin the roof underneath	The covered area is actually shaded and protected from sun and weather
Any leak is the panels' fault	Leaks come from poor workmanship, which a good installer warranties

The real protection is not avoiding solar — it is a sound roof to begin with, a careful installer, and a clear written warranty on the roof penetrations. Get those right and the roof is rarely the problem people fear.

WATCH OUT

The one genuine version of this worry is putting panels on a worn-out roof. That is a timing problem, not a solar problem — replace a tired roof first, and this myth loses its teeth.

14 Myth: Going Solar Means Going Off-Grid

Many people picture solar as cutting the cord and living off your own power, lights flickering by candlelight when the sun sets. For the vast majority of homes, that is not how it works at all, and it is not even the goal.

- Most home solar stays connected to the grid. You draw from the grid at night and send extra power back during the day.
- Truly going off-grid means a large, expensive battery bank and careful rationing — a lifestyle choice, not a typical install.
- Staying grid-connected is usually cheaper and far more reliable than trying to cut off completely.
- A plain grid-tied system, remember, actually shuts off in an outage for safety — the opposite of 'independent' — unless you add a battery.

GOOD TO KNOW

Almost nobody who gets rooftop solar goes off-grid. The grid acts like a giant, free battery that takes your daytime surplus and gives power back at night. Leaving it is rarely worth the cost.

15 Myth: Panels Quit After Ten or Fifteen Years

People often assume solar panels wear out quickly, like a phone battery. In fact panels fade very slowly, and most carry warranties measured in decades — one of the more reassuring facts in all of solar.

The myth	The reality
Panels die in 10-15 years	Most carry performance warranties around 25 years
Output drops off a cliff	Output fades slowly, often under about half a percent a year
You'll be replacing them constantly	Panels are the most durable part; an inverter may need replacing sooner

After 25 years, a typical panel still produces the large majority of what it did when new. The part most likely to need replacing in that time is the inverter, not the panels — worth asking about when you compare warranties.

> **TIP**
> When you compare quotes, look at the separate warranties: panels, inverter, and the installer's own workmanship. The headline '25 years' often refers to the panels only, so ask what covers the inverter and the labor.

16 Myth: You Need Perfect South-Facing Sun or Don't Bother

It is true that a south-facing, unshaded roof is ideal in Ohio. But 'ideal' and 'required' are not the same thing. Plenty of good systems sit on east- and west-facing roofs; they simply make somewhat less, which an honest estimate will show.

- South-facing is best in Ohio, but east- and west-facing roofs can still make solar worthwhile.
- North-facing slopes are the weak ones; a good installer avoids leaning on them.
- Panels work on cloudy and cold days too — just less than in full sun — so a gray Ohio winter does not switch them off.
- The real test is a shade-and-direction measurement of your actual roof, not a blanket rule about compass direction.

GOOD TO KNOW

Spreading panels across east and west roofs can even stretch your power production across more of the day — more in the morning on one side, more in the afternoon on the other. 'Not due south' is not the same as 'not worth it.'

17 How to Fact-Check a Solar Claim Yourself

Solar advertising is loud, and the scary myths and the too-good promises both travel fast. You do not need to be an expert to tell solid claims from sales talk — you just need a few simple habits.

1. Ask for the claim in writing. A promise that will not survive being put on paper is usually not a promise.
2. Ask 'based on what?' A good number comes from your roof, your bill, and a real measurement — not a round figure or 'trust me.'
3. Separate the equipment from the installer. A great panel installed badly is still a bad outcome; ask about both.
4. Check it against a second opinion. Two or three written quotes expose a claim that only one company makes.
5. Be most suspicious of urgency. 'Sign today or lose the deal' is a sales tactic, not a fact about solar.

WATCH OUT

If a claim leaves you unsure — scary or glowing — you are welcome to run it by me. I don't sell or install solar, so I have no deal riding on your answer. I can just help you tell a real fact from a sales line.

18 When to Call Bill

Sorting solar fact from fiction is hard when both the fears and the sales pitches sound so confident. You do not have to judge every claim on your own. Bill has no stake in whether you go solar, so when you ask him whether something is true, you get a straight answer, not a sales angle.

- You heard a scary claim about solar and want to know if it is really true in Ohio.
- A pitch promises free power, no bill, or a guaranteed resale boost.
- You are worried about hail, winters, maintenance, or recycling.
- You want to understand how a lease could affect selling your home.
- You simply want the myths cleared up before you decide anything.

Call Bill at (330) 200-8042. He will give you the honest, Ohio-specific reality behind the claims — the reassuring facts and the real limits alike — so your decision rests on what is true, not on hype or fear.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Most solar claims are a kernel of truth stretched too far — pull them back to "usually."

I want to...	Do this...
Judge the hail fear	Quality panels are hail-tested; serious damage is uncommon — confirm insurance covers it
Know the upkeep	Very low: occasional cleaning/snow, a glance at the app, maybe an inverter someday
Weigh resale value	Owned solar usually helps; a lease the buyer must assume can complicate a sale
Trust Ohio winters	Less power in winter, but the full-year total works fine
See through "no bill"	Expect a much smaller bill, not zero — fixed charges and night use remain
Check any bold claim	Ask: always, usually, or sometimes? And is it current and Ohio-specific?
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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