RATING METHOD

How we rate home batteries

Independent ratings for Australian homes. No brand can pay for a score.

A home battery is judged on how long its warranty really protects you, how well it copes with heat and weather, and whether it can grow with you. We read each brand's Australian warranty document as well as the datasheet.

34 series on the Clean Energy Council approved list, covering **2,339** approved models. **28** home series have enough published data to rank.

What makes up the score

CRITERION	WEIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS	THE RULE
Warranty that lasts On the list: 9.3 yrs to 12.0 yrs, typically 10.0 yrs	30%	Battery warranties end at 10 years or when a set amount of energy has passed through, whichever comes first. This is how many years the warranty covers for a typical home, which cycles its battery about 300 times a year.	Years of performance warranty at 300 full cycles a year, from the manufacturer's Australian warranty document: 6 years scores 0, the full 10 years or more scores 10.
Weather sealing On the list: IP55 to IP67, typically IP65	25%	Outdoor-rated batteries can go on any wall, including in the weather.	IP66 or better scores 10, IP65 9, IP55 6, IP54 4, lower 0.
Room to grow On the list: 5 kWh to 83.9 kWh, typically 29.3 kWh	25%	Start with what you need and add modules later, for an EV or electric heating.	Largest approved configuration, usable kWh: 10 scores 0, 40 or more scores 10.
Heat tolerance On the list: 45°C to 60°C, typically 53°C	20%	Batteries in garages and on west walls get hot. Higher operating limits mean less throttling.	Highest operating temperature: 40°C scores 0, 55°C or more scores 10.

How we read the documents

Warranty that lasts
Most warranties run 10 years or until a set amount of energy has passed through, whichever comes first. We divide that throughput by usable capacity, then work out how many years it covers at a typical 300 full cycles a year.

Room to grow
The largest approved configuration in usable kWh, from the approved list.

Cycle life
Lab cycle-life figures are shown where printed but not scored. They aren't a guarantee, and many brands don't print them.

Depth of discharge
Not scored, because the usable capacity you're sold already allows for it.

Before anything is scored

- Currently on the Clean Energy Council approved batteries list
- Manufacturer datasheet on file for the series

Not in the score

- Cycle life printed on datasheets. It's a lab test the maker isn't held to, and many brands don't print it; we score the warranted throughput instead
- Depth of discharge, because usable capacity (what you're sold) already allows for it
- Price and the federal rebate, which change every six months
- Continuous power, because datasheets quote it per module or per system inconsistently. We show it, but don't score it yet.
- Round-trip efficiency, which brands measure in different ways

A worked example

Sigenergy SigenStor BAT (SigenStor battery module), exactly as the site scores it. Points are score × weight.

CRITERION	PUBLISHED VALUE	SCORE	WEIGHT	POINTS
Warranty that lasts	10.0 yrs	10.0	30%	3.00
Weather sealing	IP66	10.0	25%	2.50
Room to grow	54 kWh	10.0	25%	2.50
Heat tolerance	55°C	10.0	20%	2.00
EnergyUpgrade Score				**10.0**

How brands are rated

A datasheet shows what a product promises, not how a brand behaves. Brand ratings add independent evidence, with the same rules for every brand.

PART	WEIGHT	THE RULE
Product scores	45%	Average datasheet score of the brand's two best home series in the category, the ones an installer would actually quote. Older ranges still on the approved list don't drag a brand down.
Owner reviews	15%	What owners say across the brand's products in this category: SolarQuotes owner reviews for panels, inverters and batteries, and ProductReview.com.au plus SolarQuotes for heat pumps. Reviews are averaged by count, and every brand is pulled towards 4.0 stars as if it had 30 more reviews at that level, so a handful of perfect reviews can't beat thousands of good ones. 3.0 stars or lower scores 0, 5.0 scores 10. Listings for a range the brand no longer sells are shown but not counted, and a listing about the company in general counts half.
Track record	15%	Panels: Kiwa PVEL Top Performer status, 2 points for each of the 2024, 2025 and 2026 scorecards plus up to 4 for total editions (10 or more scores 4). Inverters and batteries: up to 7 points for years selling in Australia (8 or more scores 7) and 3 for a stock-exchange listing. Heat pumps, which should last 10 to 15 years: up to 7 points for years trading in Australia (20 or more scores 7) and 3 for a listing. ACCC recalls of that kind of product take points off: 3 for one covering a range we list, 2 for another, doubled when the brand offers no remedy. A brand in liquidation scores 0.
Installer and market standing	15%	Average of two independent results, each using the better of this year's result and last year's (last year's counts 80%). The SolarQuotes Installers' Choice vote: 1st scores 10, 2nd 8, 3rd 7, 4th or 5th 6. SunWiz awards from Clean Energy Regulator installation data: No. 1 for homes scores 10, No. 1 in another segment or 2nd–3rd 8, top 5 or fastest growing 6. For panels, BloombergNEF Tier 1 status scores 6 when there's no SunWiz award. For heat pumps, which have no installation-data award, the second result is popularity from the number of owner reviews: 10 reviews scores 2, 100 scores 5, 1,000 scores 8.
Australian support	10%	Published Australian office 4 points, local support phone 3, local service email 2, more than one office 1.

Score bands

Excellent	8.5 and above
Very good	7.5 to 8.4
Good	6.5 to 7.4
Fair	Below 6.5

Data confidence

High
Australian datasheet, verified against the approved list, states at least 85% of what we weigh, and every scored value appears in the PDF.

Medium
A global edition of the datasheet, a small gap in the data, or a value we couldn't find printed in the sheet we hold.

Low
The datasheet doesn't clearly match every model in the series, or leaves out more than a third of what we weigh. Low-confidence series can't be a pick.

Questions

Why 300 cycles a year?
Most homes don't fully empty and refill a battery every single day. About 300 full cycles a year is typical; heavy users should check the throughput figure on the warranty.

Why isn't power output scored yet?
Datasheets quote continuous power per module or per system inconsistently. We show it, and will score it once it can be compared fairly.

Some series say 'not stated' for the warranty. Why?
We couldn't find a published throughput figure in the brand's Australian warranty document. Send it to us and we'll score it.

