



I ♥ SOLAR

A FREE I LOVE SOLAR GUIDE

The Connected Solar Home

A practical guide for busy families running robot mowers, robot vacuums, smart appliances and a house full of devices — and how to power all of it on sunshine instead of peak-rate electricity.

Written for Australian homeowners
by the team at I Love Solar

ilovesolar.com.au
Solar, sized for how you actually live

CONTENTS

What's inside

- 01 The modern home runs on more devices than you think**
- 02 Robot mowers & robot vacuums: small loads, smart timing**
- 03 The big chore appliances: laundry, dishwashers, pool pumps**
- 04 Everyday tech: tablets, laptops, TVs and the "always on" home**
- 05 Building a family "solar timetable"**
- 06 Monitoring apps: seeing your home's energy in real time**
- 07 Sizing a system for a genuinely connected family**
- 08 Getting matched with the right installer**

WHO THIS IS FOR

Families who've filled their home with time-saving devices — robovacs, robo mowers, smart plugs, multiple screens per person — and want all of it running on free daytime sunshine instead of adding up on a peak-rate power bill.

SECTION 01

The modern home runs on more devices than you think

A generation ago, a household's big electricity users were the fridge, the hot water system and the air-conditioner. Today's connected family adds robot vacuums docking and charging daily, robot mowers trimming the lawn on autopilot, smart laundry appliances, pool pumps and filtration, plus a small fleet of tablets, laptops, gaming consoles and smart speakers that never quite switch off.

None of these individually use much power. Together, they quietly add up — and because most of them run on their own schedule rather than yours, they're often charging or operating at exactly the wrong time of day, drawing from the grid at peak rates instead of soaking up free solar.

15–20

connected devices in a typical modern family home

10am–3pm

the window when most rooftop solar produces its peak output

4pm–9pm

typical grid peak-rate window most retailers charge more for

THE OPPORTUNITY

Almost every device in this guide can be scheduled, app-controlled or simply plugged in during the day. Shift enough of them into your solar window and you turn a house full of "little" loads into a genuinely lower power bill.

SECTION 02

Robot mowers & robot vacuums: small loads, smart timing

Robot vacuums and robot mowers are two of the easiest wins in a solar home, because both already run on a schedule you control.

1 Robot vacuums

Most docking stations sip a small amount of power continuously and draw a bit more during an active clean and recharge cycle. Set the cleaning schedule to run mid-morning or early afternoon rather than overnight — you'll get the same clean floors powered by sunshine instead of the grid.

2 Robot lawn mowers

Robotic mowers typically charge in a garden dock and run their mowing cycles across the day in short bursts. Many models let you set "no-mow" and preferred charging windows — align these with your peak solar hours and the mower effectively cuts your lawn for free.

3 Other outdoor gear

Battery-powered garden tools — blowers, trimmers, pressure washers — are another easy one. Charge the battery packs during the day on the weekend rather than plugging in after dinner.

QUICK WIN

Check the companion app for your robot vacuum or mower — almost all of them let you set a preferred charging or cleaning window. Five minutes of setup, and it runs on solar every day after that without you thinking about it again.

SECTION 03

The big chore appliances: laundry, dishwashers, pool pumps

These are the loads that actually move the needle on a power bill — and, conveniently, they're also the easiest to shift onto solar because most of us don't care exactly when the wash cycle finishes, only that it's done by evening.

1 Washing machines & dryers

Run full loads in the late morning to mid-afternoon using a delay-start timer if your machine has one. A single load can use as much power as several hours of a robot vacuum — well worth the habit change.

2 Dishwashers

Load it after lunch and run it in the afternoon rather than after dinner. Most modern dishwashers have an eco or delay function that makes this effortless.

3 Pool pumps & filtration

For homes with a pool, the pump is very often the single biggest electricity user in the house. Set the filtration cycle to run entirely within daylight hours — there's rarely a good reason to run a pool pump overnight, and doing so during the day is one of the highest-impact changes in this guide.

BIGGEST LEVER IN THIS GUIDE

If you do nothing else, shift your pool pump and laundry routine into daylight hours. For many families this single change has more impact on the power bill than every small connected device combined.

SECTION 04

Everyday tech: tablets, laptops, TVs and the "always on" home

Individually tiny, collectively real: the chargers, screens and smart devices that fill a modern family home draw power around the clock, whether anyone's using them or not.

1 Charge during the day where you can

Kids' tablets, laptops and phones don't need to charge overnight — encourage a habit of topping up after school or during the day when the sun's doing the work, rather than plugging in at bedtime.

2 Smart plugs for standby power

Game consoles, set-top boxes and chargers left plugged in on standby add up quietly over a year. A handful of inexpensive smart plugs let you schedule these off overnight and on during the day.

3 Home office equipment

For households working or studying from home, desktop computers, monitors and printers are already running during daylight hours — a natural fit for solar with no habit change required at all.

FAMILY HABIT

Make "charge it in daylight" the household rule for anything with a battery — phones, tablets, laptops, garden tools, the lot. It costs nothing to adopt and compounds nicely across a family of devices.

SECTION 05

Building a family "solar timetable"

The easiest way to put all of this into practice is a simple timetable the whole household can follow. Here's a sample for a typical connected family home:

TIME	WHAT RUNS
7am – 9am	Kettle, toaster, school-run prep — normal morning routine
9am – 3pm	Washing machine & dryer, dishwasher, pool pump, robot vacuum, robot mower, device charging, home office equipment
3pm – 4pm	EV charging top-up if needed (see our EV charging guide)
4pm – 9pm	Cooking, showers, evening TV — the unavoidable peak-time loads
9pm onwards	Standby devices powered down via smart plugs; battery (if installed) covers essentials

NOT ABOUT PERFECTION

You don't need to hit every slot every day. Even shifting two or three of your biggest chores into the middle of the day makes a meaningful difference over a year — treat this as a target, not a rulebook.

SECTION 06

Monitoring apps: seeing your home's energy in real time

Almost every modern solar inverter comes with a free monitoring app showing live generation, home usage and export — and it's genuinely the fastest way to build good household habits.

- ✓ Check the app once a week as a family and spot which appliances spike usage the most.
- ✓ Use it to confirm your robot vacuum, mower and smart plug schedules are actually landing inside your solar window.
- ✓ Some apps allow multiple household logins — a fun, visible way to get kids involved in "beating yesterday's solar usage".
- ✓ Pair with a smart meter or energy monitor for appliance-level detail if your installer offers one.

ASK YOUR INSTALLER

When you're matched through I Love Solar, ask specifically which monitoring app comes with your system and whether it supports multiple household users — a small detail that makes a real difference to whether a family actually uses it day to day.

SECTION 07

Sizing a system for a genuinely connected family

A household running robot mowers, robovacs, a pool pump, full-time home office equipment and a house full of screens uses noticeably more than the "average" home a generic online solar calculator assumes.

1 Count your always-on loads

Pool pumps, pond filtration, aquariums, servers or home offices running all day are the loads a standard calculator often misses — and exactly what a proper in-home or phone assessment should capture.

2 Plan for growth, not just today

If an EV, a second robot mower, ducted air-conditioning or a home extension are on the horizon, it's worth sizing your system (and inverter capacity) with room to grow rather than exactly matching today's bill.

3 Consider a battery for evening-heavy families

Families with after-school and evening activity peaks — dinner, screens, air-conditioning — often get more value from a modest battery than a household that's mostly out during the day.

THE I LOVE SOLAR DIFFERENCE

Rather than a generic quote based on your postcode and roof size, being matched through I Love Solar means telling us about your actual household — devices, routines and plans — so the system you're quoted is sized for the family you really are.



LIFE, UNPLUGGED FROM THE GRID

A family home that runs on sunshine, not just power points.

From the kettle to the robot mower, the connected home just runs better when it's timed to the sun.

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Get matched with a solar installer who sizes for real family life

I Love Solar works like the trades platforms you already know, purpose-built for solar and home energy. Tell us about your household — devices, routines, plans for the years ahead — and we match you with pre-vetted, CEC-accredited installers in your area, so your quote reflects how your family actually lives.

1

Answer a few quick questions about your home and household devices.

2

We match you with vetted local installers who understand connected homes.

3

Compare real, tailored quotes side-by-side and choose with confidence.

Get your free match at ilovesolar.com.au

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