

# Can gallium be used to make photovoltaic panels

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Can gallium be added to solar panels?

But some other elements are also required. Research from our group at the University of New South Wales's School of Photovoltaics and Renewable Energy Engineering shows that adding gallium to the cell's silicon can lead to very stable solar panels which are much less susceptible to degrading over their lifetime.

Why is gallium used in solar cells?

As gallium is used more and more to achieve this, our findings provide robust data that could allow manufacturers to make decisions that will ultimately have a global impact. A solar cell converts sunlight into electricity by using the energy from sunlight to "break away" negative charges, or electrons, in the silicon.

Can gallium replace boron in solar panels?

Unfortunately, this means that the very sunlight used to generate energy also damages the solar panels over their lifetime. However, gallium appears to be the solution to this problem. The idea of using gallium as a solar panel life-extending replacement for boron, however, is not new.

Could gallium be the answer to solar panels' biggest drawbacks?

Coming from a country where more than two million rooftops have solar panels, the Australian University of New South Wales has been exploring methods to reduce costs to the already cheapest form of electricity generation, and gallium may have given the answer to one of the solar panel's largest drawbacks.

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Another way to make solar panels use gallium is to combine the material with another substance. The combination of the two elements creates a highly efficient material with high energy yield.

But with the rise of n-type TOPCon technology, the use of gallium in PV production is now on the decline, and gallium's market prospects are increasingly dim, market participants said.



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The high electrical conductivity of gallium allows it to be used in solar photovoltaic and in the manufacture of wind turbine cells, improving its efficiency and performance.

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