



Useful information about charging from the sun...

Q: Optimum Solar Charging

A: To get optimum performance from your solar product, you need to know a few things about batteries and solar charging.

During the summertime, the Earth's angle of exposure to the sun is at its greatest, making the sun much more powerful. The number of hours of sunlight are also increased during summer, which means solar charging is improved.

To increase the efficiency of your solar product, make sure the panels directly face the sun at all times. As the sun moves across the sky throughout the day, adjust your solar panel accordingly. Occasionally a cloud may cover part of the solar panel, if you are using the solarmonkey, the included solarnut will eradicate any disruption in charge to your device as it has internal capacitors to regulate the flow of charge. The solarnut should always remain connected to the solarmonkey, outside in direct sunlight whilst charging your device.

The time of day is also an important factor to consider when using your solar product. You will get the best performance when the sun is at the highest point in the sky, usually at Noon. In fact, an hour charging at Noon will give better charge than a few hours later on the same day.

If you are charging through a window, windscreen, etc, be aware that the charging times will be increased. Most commercial buildings and vehicles have tinted windows which block the UV light and even normal glass has a slight filtering effect which can reduce charging performance by up to 10 percent. For optimum performance, your solar product should be outside in direct sunlight without obstruction.

Whilst a powerful sun is obviously desired for maximum performance from your solar product, you should be aware that extreme weather conditions can affect battery efficiency. The charging temperature range for a Lithium-Ion battery is 0 - 45 Degrees C and the batteries can be discharged at temperatures of 20 - 50 Degrees C.

In case of extreme conditions, try to keep your device from direct exposure to the environment.