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Indianapolis roads can pay a toll on your car. More than 37,000 residents complained about potholes in the city in the first nine months of 2018 - more than double the number throughout 2017. Poor road conditions can lead to long-term damage to your car, and a motorist told reporters that the potholes on the south side of the city were so bad that her mechanic told her they slotted her engine, causing her SUV to stall. To make matters worse, the city's investment in transit infrastructure has historically been modest. Indianapolis spends less per capita on mass transit than any other metropolitan area in the United States with a population of more than one million. Indianapolis doesn't have a commuter rail service, and only four percent of its residents live within a quarter of a mile of a bus stop with service at least every 15 minutes. As a result, less than one percent of the metropolitan area's population uses public transport on a daily basis. An extended car warranty prevents you from being stuck without transportation by covering the cost of unexpected repairs. Unlike car insurance, which covers damage caused by accidents, an extended car warranty provides coverage when the car has mechanical problems. Several extended car warranty plans are available in Indianapolis, but typically do not cover routine maintenance for brake pads, tires, air cleaners, or oil changes. Some plans include additional features, such as towing, roadside assistance, or refunding up to 150 percent for a trip interrupted due to car issues. Some plans require a deductible - generally between \$50 and \$100 - while others pay for repair costs in total. Here are some questions to consider when deciding whether to buy an extended automatic warranty: Who provides the warranty? An extended warranty is often available through the original equipment manufacturer or a third-party company. The OEM warranty typically extends the original warranty that comes with a new car, but a third-party warranty can be customized to cover a number of issues. What is the best price? Do your research before buying your car; you could get the best deal at the time of purchase, rather than shopping for extended car warranty after the original manufacturer's warranty expires. What does the extended warranty cover? An extended car warranty based in Indianapolis may not cover many of the car parts that suffer most from wear and tear. Many extended car warranty companies sell plans in levels with different prices and coverage levels, so be sure to get the coverage you need and what you expect. The plans range from bumper to bumper guarantees to those that cover only the main components, such as the engine and transmission. Reading time: 4 minutes similar to your laptop or mobile phone battery, solar batteries degrade over time: as you continue to use and charge you lose the ability to hold a charge. Fortunately, solar battery manufacturers provide guarantees that guarantee the performance of a battery at a certain level. In this article, we will immerse ourselves in what matters in a solar battery guarantee, and how some of the top solar batteries - Tesla Powerwall 2, LG Chem RESU 10H, and Sonnen eco - accumulate. How to evaluate battery guarantees While comparing one battery warranty to another, here are some of the most important factors to consider: Warranty years Nearly all battery manufacturers provide a guarantee that guarantees the performance of one battery for a period of years. Among manufacturers, these warranty terms may vary, especially when it comes to batteries from different manufacturers: lead acid batteries generally have a shorter lifespan than lithium-ion batteries and therefore have shorter warranty periods. While comparing battery guarantees, you'll find that many lead acid products have warranties under 5 years old, while most lithium-ion battery manufacturers offer warranties of 10 years or more. Life cycle Most homeowners who take advantage of solar-plus charging storage systems and discharge batteries every day - this is known as a cycle. In addition to ensuring battery life for a certain period of years, some battery manufacturers also provide a guarantee for guaranteed performance over a number of cycles. Similarly, the number of cycles for which the battery is justified (if any) often depends on battery chemistry: typically, lithium-ion batteries can withstand multiple cycles, so they should have a higher number of cycles in their warranty agreements than competitors with lead acid. However, it is important not to evaluate battery guarantees based on cycles only; As solar batteries gradually lose their ability to hold a full charge as they age, a cycle towards the end of battery life stores and produces less energy than the output of a cycle immediately after installation. In addition, battery size is an important factor to compare along with cycles: a smaller battery that has a lifespan of 10,000 cycles can actually provide less energy over its lifetime than a larger battery justified only for 7,000 cycles. That's why it's also important to consider ensuring a battery's productivity. Throughput A guarantee of throughput is the total energy that a manufacturer expects the battery to deliver for its entire life. These guarantees are usually indicated in terms of megawatt-hours (MWh). Suppose a battery manufacturer provides a throughput of 20 MWh. This means that the warranty is valid until the battery stores and provides 20 MWh (20,000 kilowatt hours) of energy. As the exit from battery cycling will decrease over the years, it is difficult to estimate the number of MWh of energy guarantee based on justified cycles only. In comparison, throughput guarantees are a more tangible metric, making it easier to assess the value of the battery over its lifetime. End-of-warranty capacity assessment In addition to providing a guarantee for a set number of years, cycles, or throughput, some manufacturers also provide an end-of-warranty capacity assessment. This ensures that the battery will keep some capacity during warranty. For example, LG Chem ensures that by the end of 10 years or the justified throughput (whichever comes first), the battery will still keep 60% of its original capacity. Given the size of the LG Chem RESU 10H (9.3 kWh), this means about 5.6 kWh of capacity at the end of the warranty period. While comparing the end of warranty capacity assessments between various batteries, higher percentages are better than lower percentage guarantees. Batteries vs inverters All battery systems require an inverter to convert direct current (DC) electricity stored in the battery into AC for your appliances. It is important to note that some battery products include a built-in inverter, and as a result, the warranty covers both batteries and the inverter component. However, this is not always the case: the battery may require a separate inverter with a warranty from a different manufacturer, or the system may include a built-in inverter with a different warranty life than the battery component. Before buying a battery, check the warranty contract to see if it includes the inverter. If not, it is worth asking your installer what kind of inverter they recommend to match with the warranty and compare the warranties accordingly. Top battery guarantee comparison So, how do battery guarantees compare between some of the most popular brands? Below, we evaluate the guarantees of the Tesla Powerwall 2, the LG Chem RESU 10H, and the Sonnen eco 10. Name Tesla Powerwall 2 LG Chem RESU 10H Sonnen eco 10 Chemistry Lithium-ion Lithium-ion Lithium iron phosphate Warranty (years) 10 years 10 years 10 years Warranty (cycles) N/A N/A 10,000 cycles Warranty (throughput) 37 MWh 22.4 MWh N/A End warranty capacity 70% 60% 70% Inverter covered? Yes No Yes Tesla Powerwall 2 The Tesla Powerwall 2 is a lithium-ion battery. For this product, Tesla offers a warranty period for a certain period of years (10), an throughput guarantee and a guarantee of end of warranty capacity. In particular, the Tesla Powerwall 2 includes a built-in battery inverter, and their warranty covers both the battery and the inverter. LG Chem RESU 10H Similar to Tesla 2, the LG Chem RESU 10H is a lithium-ion battery. LG Chem also offers the same warranty period as Tesla (10 years), but provides a smaller productivity guarantee; however, some of these differences could be attributed to changes in size between the two technologies kWh capacity that can be used for LG Chem compared to 13.5 kWh for the Powerwall). The LG Chem RESU 10H is exclusively a battery-powered unit and therefore requires a separate inverter component to operate. However, this battery is most often paired with SolarEdge's StorEdge, a battery-ready inverter that also has a 10-year warranty. Sonnen eco 10 Unlike the other two options above, the Sonnen eco 10 storage system includes lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries. Lithium-iron technologies are newer to the solar market than most types of lithium-ion batteries and lead acid batteries, but often boast longer life spans and more cycles than alternative protections. Unlike the Tesla Powerwall 2 or LG Chem RESU 10H, Sonnen's warranty does not guarantee a specific throughput; the warranty lasts 10 years or 10,000 cycles (whichever it comes first). However, Sonnen provides estimates for throughput based on the number of cycles in their warranty contract: an Echo 10 (4 battery modules) has an throughput estimate of 58 MWh, exceeding the throughput of the Tesla Powerwall 2 while having a lower usable capacity (10 kWh). Choosing the best solar battery for your home or business Warranty is certainly important, though not the only factor to consider when evaluating solar battery options: price, performance, and durability should all be taken into account before making a decision. You can compare multiple solar battery options in the EnergySage Purchase Guide. Each battery has an independent quality rating that takes into account all these factors and more. If you're ready to start shopping for a solar-plus storage system, sign up on the EnergySage Marketplace to get up to seven competing quotes from local installers. Installers.