



SOLAR POWERED SOFFIT FANS LLC

Solar Attic Fan Thermostats

Some solar attic fans offer thermostats as an option. Theoretically, they turn the fan on near a set temperature, and turn it off near a lower temperature, just like a conventionally powered attic fan. Are they worth it?

The only reason to delay the start of a solar fan is to prevent removing cool air from the attic in the morning. This may be done with a thermostat, if the solar panel is facing south. If the solar panel is mounted so that morning sunlight will start the fan and remove cool air, which is frequently the situation with conventional solar fans having fixed mounts and facing south, a thermostat seems a logical solution.

Once the solar attic fan starts, thermostats must cool to a temperature below the fan start temperature to turn off the fan. Summer attic temperatures rarely fall to this temperature until well after sunset, *when the solar panel is already de-energized and off*. In some cases, the temperature doesn't drop sufficiently to turn off the fan before the sun rises again in the next morning, resulting in the thermostat having no effect.

A better approach is to point the solar panel azimuth toward the southwest, instead of to the south, *without a thermostat*, so that the sunlight automatically starts the fan later in the morning, then let the fan cool the attic as long as possible until the sun goes down. Instead of spending money on a thermostat, use an adjustable mount, like Solar Powered Soffit Fans' Flex Mount.

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