



New Prius: Cooled By The Heat Of The Sun

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New solar powered ventilation and Remote Air Conditioning

KEY POINTS

- Optional Solar Pack provides independent cooling of cabin when the car is parked
- Ventilation operates independently from the vehicle motor, powered by solar roof panels
- Additional Remote Air Conditioning function allows air con to be started up to three minutes before car is occupied, operated by key fob control
- Available with Prius T Spirit models

Climbing into a car that's been parked for a while on even a moderately sunny day can be an uncomfortable experience and is likely to provoke full-blast operation of the air conditioning, using up fuel and increasing emissions. Toyota has solved the problem with a new solar-powered ventilation system that keeps the interior cool, with no need for the engine to be running. And to make sure the temperature is just right before you get inside, it has produced the world's first Remote Air Conditioning control, operated using the car's key fob.

The two innovations form a Solar Pack that is available as an option on T Spirit versions of new Prius.

Solar panels, neatly integrated into a sliding sunroof, power the electric air circulation fan. Running independently from the engine, it can cool cabin temperature down from 80 to 45°C, so there is less need for the air conditioning to be used to achieve a comfortable level when you return to the vehicle.

The system can be activated as the driver leaves the car. One minute after the ignition is turned off, the air intake mode switches to "Outside Air Ventilation" and the blower mode switches to "Face" to ensure the most efficient performance. To avoid cabin air that has already been cooled being vented straight away, the system starts operating after 10 minutes, continuing until it is switched off, or the ignition is turned on.

Toyota's Remote Air Conditioning is a world-first. Thanks to the power available from Prius's large capacity hybrid battery, it can run for up to three minutes before the car is occupied (such a system could not be supported by a conventional 12V car battery). It is activated by pressing the A/C button on the key fob for one second.

New Prius is on sale from 1 August, priced from £18,370 on the road. The Solar Pack option costs £1,450, including VAT.

Keep up-to-date with the latest new Prius, news, views, images, videos and more on Today/Tomorrow, the official Toyota blog, at blog.toyota.co.uk.

ENDS

Note to editors: T Spirit models equipped with the Solar Pack are fitted with 15-inch wheels in place of the usual 17-inch rims.