

Solar panel safety

Solar power generation is one of the most rapidly growing renewable sources of electricity. But there are a number of things to consider to ensure your safety and the safety of your solar system.

Your solar system is an electrical power generator that produces both direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC) voltage at levels that are potentially lethal. As such, solar systems can create an electrical safety risk for residents, emergency services personnel and Evoenergy crews particularly in times of severe weather events such as storms and floods.

Like all electrical equipment, regular maintenance of your entire solar system is important. You are required to have your photovoltaic inverter tested every five years to check it remains safely connected to Evoenergy's electricity network and Evoenergy will send you a reminder when this testing is due. However by doing regular routine maintenance, you can ensure your solar system is safe for everyone living in the premises, along with electrical workers working on the distribution network.

Routine maintenance will also ensure system performance is maintained, allowing you to maximise savings on your power bills for many years.

While Evoenergy is not responsible for the maintenance and servicing of your system, here are some general tips and information you may wish to consider.

Regular system maintenance and servicing

- Use only an approved, qualified Clean Energy Council accredited electrician to undertake servicing and modifications.
- Follow the maintenance schedule provided by your solar retailer or installer.
- You should never attempt to service or open any part of your solar system unless you are a fully qualified licensed electrician or you have been authorised to do so and have properly prepared the site.
- If you need to access your roof, remember you are working at heights so take appropriate precautions, adhere to all relevant safety regulations, and wear appropriate equipment, including a safety harness to restrain you from falling off the roof, sturdy shoes that have thick rubber soles to provide electrical insulation and good grip and appropriate clothing for personal protection, including a hat, sunglasses, gloves and long pants and sleeves.

Your system may still be live even if there has been a power outage

- As solar systems are powered by the sun, or any other source of light they can continue to generate power from the solar panel to the inverter even if the mains power has been disconnected or there is an interruption to the electricity supply.
- Even if your solar system has been shut down as per the shutdown procedure, if anyone is working on your roof, you must make them aware that there is the possibility of a small, electrical charge being present in the base frame and panel frames.
- All solar systems are connected to the electricity network. If there's an interruption to the electricity supply, solar systems will not continue to supply power to the home.

Things to remember during wet weather, storms or flooding

- Do not work in the vicinity of solar panels when it is raining or when the area is wet.
- Do not attempt to turn off your solar system if components of the system are wet. This could result in a fatal electric shock.
- Do not approach your system if parts are submerged and, if you are forced onto a rooftop to avoid floodwater, keep well away from solar panels and wiring.
- Do not assume your system is safe even if there has been an interruption to the electricity supply. Solar systems still produce DC voltage while there is daylight.
- If you're preparing for an extreme weather event such as severe storms, cyclone or a flood event it may be a good idea to shut down the solar system. You should always follow the manufacturer's or installer's shutdown procedures.
- After a storm flying debris may have caused damage to your solar system or roof. If you're concerned about the safety of your system, follow the shutdown procedure at the inverter or main switchboard.
- Do not reconnect your solar system unless a licensed electrical contractor has certified the installation is safe. If your property has suffered roof damage it may be live or residual moisture may have caused the system to become live.

- You should always visually inspect the system in a safe way and, if concerned, call the installer or a licensed electrical contractor.
- Contact a Clean Energy Council accredited installer to test or recommission the system, or a licensed electrical contractor to test that it is safe.
- Once it's safe to switch the system back on, monitor the inverter to ensure the system is operating correctly.
- If your home or business becomes inundated with floodwater and the mains power is still connected, please contact Evoenergy immediately on **13 10 93** to arrange disconnection.

Other safety considerations

- Treat your solar system as if it is live at all times.
- You should never substitute any material supplied in the solar system.
- You should never pour cold water on the solar panels when the sun is shining and they are hot. Doing so can shatter the solar panel glass, which could expose you to the danger of electrocution.
- You should never walk on the surface of solar panels. It will damage the solar panel.
- Do not touch any damaged cables on your solar system.
- Take care when touching the inverter housing as it can become hot. You should never cover the inverter's cooling fins.
- In case of fire, where possible, try to shut down the solar system. All circuit breakers must remain off until the fire is extinguished.

Language assistance

如果您需要幫助，請打電話給下面的號碼。

¿Necesita un intérprete? Llame al número indicado abajo.

هل تحتاج إلى مترجم؟ اتصل بالرقم أدناه.

Trebate li pomoć tumača? Nazovite niže navedeni broj.

Nếu quý vị cần sự giúp đỡ, vui lòng gọi số bên dưới.

13 14 50 - 24 hours