



# Solar energy systems – inspections and maintenance

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## Why is solar maintenance important?

Consistent exposure to weather including UV from sunlight, rain and wind will cause solar energy system components to deteriorate or become damaged over time, which could create an electrical or fire safety risk.

Dust and debris also gradually build up on solar panels. This may affect how the system performs.

Regular inspections and maintenance of solar energy systems will ensure that any issues are identified and fixed early, before they pose a risk or cause other problems which can be expensive to fix.

## Who can do solar maintenance?

The maintenance of electrical installations in Queensland, including solar energy systems, must be done by a licensed electrician.

You can check whether an electrician is licensed at [electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://electricalsafety.qld.gov.au). You can also ask your electrician for their licence details and call the Electrical Safety Office on 1300 362 128.

It is best to choose an electrician who specialises in solar. Often these electricians will be accredited as solar installers by the Clean Energy Council. You can check whether an electrician holds this accreditation at [cleanenergycouncil.com.au](http://cleanenergycouncil.com.au).

Do not attempt to perform solar maintenance yourself – engage an electrician who has the skills required to perform this work properly and safely.

## What needs maintaining?

Your solar installer may have given you information on the required maintenance when the system was first installed.

There is also a handy maintenance checklist your electrician can use on our website. Go to [electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://electricalsafety.qld.gov.au) and search “solar PV systems”.

## Some things your electrician will look for include:

- checking for any damage or deterioration to components
- testing to ensure that safety switches and other devices are working properly
- ensuring the panels, frame and all cables remain firmly fixed in place
- clearing any debris and ensuring the system is not being impacted by vegetation.

## How often should maintenance be done?

How often your solar energy system needs maintaining will depend on the site conditions, the age of the system and when maintenance was last performed.

More regular maintenance may be needed for systems which are close to the ocean due to higher wind and salt deposits which may increase corrosion.

The same applies to areas with more vegetation or dust – panels may need more regular cleaning in these areas.

Talk to your electrician for a recommendation on maintenance frequency. We recommend that a solar energy system should be inspected at least once a year.

In between inspections you should still monitor the performance of your system, especially after storms and contact an electrician if you have concerns.

**Just like your car, regular maintenance is the best way to ensure that your solar energy system performs as it should for its intended lifespan.**





## What records should I keep?

After maintenance is performed on your solar energy system you should keep a copy of the maintenance checklist completed by the electrician for your records.

Keep the checklist with your warranty information for the system as it may assist you with any future claims.

## What if my solar is new?


Even if your solar energy system is brand new, you should start thinking about organising regular maintenance in the future.

That way, you can put money aside for maintenance in advance, and set a reminder for when your first inspection is due.

## For more information, visit:



 [electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](https://electricalsafety.qld.gov.au)

 1300 362 128

 [electricalsafetyoffice](#)

Photographs courtesy of Mark Allan Photography, Hobart and Tasmanian Energy Company.

This material has been adapted from the Tasmanian Government Solar energy systems - inspections and maintenance brochure.