

## **Solar System Maintenance**

Edis Solar panels require very little maintenance apart from periodic cleaning and keeping them free from obstacles that can cast shadows over the panels. Solar panels need an unobstructed path to the sun to operate optimally.

Ou Solar panels are designed to withstand extreme weather events like hail, snow, ice and wind to provide lasting performance. Solar panels typically have a lifespan of 25 to 30 years with regular maintenance, but should you start to see a dip in their output, it might signal it's time to clean them.



Dirt, debris, dust and other items settle on solar panels over time and if the accumulation grows too much, it can start to impact the amount of energy that the solar panels produce. Be sure to turn your solar power system off prior to cleaning. Cleaning solar panels by spraying them down with lukewarm water from a hose usually does the trick. Do not use cleaning agents or soap to clean solar panels because they can leave streaks and damage the panels.

For solar panels with heavier deposits, spraying them down with a lukewarm water from a garden hose and wiping them down with a non-abrasive, microfiber cloth can get them clean. If you clean them while on a roof, remember to do so safely by using a safety harness to prevent falls. If cleaning from a ladder, use caution to prevent falls. Best yet, a telescopic pole with a microfiber cloth attached to it can help you safely clean solar panels from the ground.

Do not clean solar panels on a sunny day as it may leave smudges and marks when water evaporate quickly.



The best time to cleaning Solar Panels is in Winter months. Sometimes snow and ice can accumulate on panels but since they are angled, it will melt and slide off in time. Should snow or ice persist, spraying panels

with lukewarm water can help removal.

Avoid using hot water to clean snow and ice as the temperature discrepancy can cause panels to crack. You can also brush the panels off with something non-abrasive to prevent scratches.

Solar panels only need maintenance two to four times a year depending on conditions at the location. Spring and autumn are good times to perform maintenance work because panels can need cleaning following winter when dust and debris can accumulate. Late autumn is also a good time to remove leaves and other droppings such as sap from trees and bird droppings.

Checking the solar panels four times a year can help you track the performance of your panels better. You can notice issues sooner and address them faster.

Inspect wires and connections to ensure they are in working condition. Sometimes onsects and rodents gnaw on cabling.

## When do Solar Panels Need Maintenance ?

It's important to track the energy output of your solar panels closely. Typically a prolonged drop in production signals a maintenance need. Solar panels tend to decrease in performance as they age but early in their lifespan, any drop is more likely to come from dirty or obstructed panels.

