



How often to clean solar panels

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Within solar energy circles, cleaning solar panels is a hot topic of debate: should you or shouldn't you? While some suggest that regularly washing panels is necessary to get the maximum solar conversion possible. Others feel that solar panels should only get a rinse off once in a while if you see a notably low solar output. Following the solar panel manufacturer's maintenance suggestions is always a good place to start, but if you're still not sure, read on to learn how to maintain and clean your solar panels.

While the situations mentioned above may affect how dirty your solar panels get, the best way to "clean" your solar panels is by simply letting nature do its thing. A good rain shower will rinse dust and debris off the panels to keep them working at around 95% capacity. However, if where you live is extremely dry or experiencing a drought, you may need to hose them down, but this is only really necessary if you notice a problem.

Hiring a company may be the most straightforward and safe choice if you have a whole roof array. The average cost of cleaning solar panels is around \$150, but some solar panel installers offer a free or reduced-price cleaning service.

Some solar panel manufacturers actually require you to clean your panels every six months to keep your warranty valid. Professional cleaning companies provide a washing service and also check for any damage done by birds and the environment.

Depending on the size of your solar panel array, position, and location, you may wish to invest in a programmable sprinkler cleaning system to regularly rinse off the panels. This is particularly handy if you live in a dry, hot location and don't want the hassle of climbing a ladder to hose them down yourself.

So far, we have introduced 3 different ways to make your solar panels bright and shiny again; professional cleaning services, automated solar panel cleaning system, or by yourself.

Now we've come to what everyone is most concerned about. Cha-ching. How much does each option cost? What's the most cost-effective way to clean my panels? As regular maintenance is recommended, choosing the right one could save you from future tears.

You won't need any specialist equipment to clean your solar panels. A hose, a soft sponge, and a bucket should be enough to get the job done. Pressure washers aren't advisable, as they can easily damage the solar cells. Instead of using soap, spray your panels with diluted white vinegar and then wipe them down with a sponge. Use a squeegee or a soft cloth to remove excess moisture.

Since portable solar panels can fold away, they may need less maintenance than rigid PV panels. Wash or wipe



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a portable solar panel with water or a damp cloth just like rigid panels. If you've been on a particularly muddy camping trip, or you're using larger panels for home backup, you might need to give them a rinse. EcoFlow portable solar panels have an IP67 waterproof rating. Easily clean them with a slow stream of water when necessary.

Whether you have a rigid rooftop array or a series of portable solar panels, it's best to keep cleaning to a bare minimum. While rooftop panels should be fine after a downpour, call a cleaning service if in doubt. For your portable panels, keep it simple with water, and a soft cloth.

Despite equipment lifespans of over 25 years, solar panel maintenance is relatively minimal for homeowners with renewable energy systems. When the rare bit of solar maintenance is required, however, executing the necessary upkeep is essential to ensure optimal system performance.

In this guide for homeowners with solar power systems, we detail everything to know about solar panel cleaning and maintenance to maximize your clean electricity production and energy bill savings.

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