



# Solar panel cleaning

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Dirty panels? There are some instances where solar panels might need cleaning, but most of the evidence says solar panels are self-sufficient and low-maintenance. We'll get to the best way to clean your solar panels in a minute. But first, let's look at when and why you might need to invest in solar panel cleaning equipment or hire a professional cleaning service.

Google did a study on the need to clean solar panels. They found that tilted panels don't require cleaning as much as flat panels. This was confirmed by another study by engineers at the University of California, San Diego, which found that a minimum five-degree angle helped debris to slide off the panels.

Some exceptions might be if you notice excessive bird droppings, after heavy dust storms in places like Arizona or when you live directly next to or downwind from major highways, factories or agricultural fields. In these instances, it's possible to generate enough grime to call for cleaning.

Most snow will melt fairly quickly as the dark solar panels attract heat and sunlight. And snow actually cleans your panels as it melts, taking any dust and dirt with it as it slides off the slick module surface. Read more about solar and snow [here](#).

Some of the sunniest places also don't get much rain, which does a good job cleaning panels. If you can see a thick film accumulated on your panels or notice significant a dip in efficiency, it might be time for a wash.

1. Be sure to check your panel manufacturer instructions for shutting down the system before cleaning, if necessary. Try not to go on the roof to clean your system. It's risky both for you and your panels.
3. A good nozzle attachment on your garden hose might work just fine. If a lot of dust and dirt has accumulated, you might need to clean more thoroughly. Try to clean with squeegee extension like this one. If you're interested in the whole kit and kaboodle for home solar cleaning equipment, Mr. LongArm is one of the most popular.
4. Don't use metal objects, abrasive products or detergents. Scratches on a solar panel can create shadows and affect efficiency. Simply use clean water and a cloth-covered sponge or soft plastic brush.
5. Rainwater is low in mineral content, but some people have "hard water" or mineral-rich water from the tap. If this is the case for you, just be sure to squeegee the panels dry to avoid mineral deposits and streaking.

Generally, cleaning your solar panels isn't something you need to bother with. The best way to figure out if your panels need cleaning is to assess the above conditions. For the most part, solar panels are self-cleaning.



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Keeping your solar panels clean is crucial for maximizing their efficiency and energy output. Over time, dirt, dust, bird droppings, and other debris can accumulate on the surface, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches the solar cells. Fortunately, cleaning solar panels is a relatively simple process that can be done by homeowners themselves. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through the step-by-step process of how to clean solar panels safely and effectively, keeping them in tip-top shape.

Keeping your solar panels clean is an essential part of maintaining their optimal performance. Even a thin layer of dust, dirt, or debris can significantly reduce the amount of sunlight that reaches the solar cells, resulting in lower energy output and decreased efficiency. This can lead to a substantial decrease in the solar panel system's ability to generate electricity at its maximum potential, as well as a reduction in its overall efficiency by as much as 30%.

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