



The PV Installation Specialists

Recommended Solar Array Cleaning

Customers often inquire as to how they should go about cleaning their solar array and how often. The answer is quite simple. It is at the sole discretion of the owner. To help customers gain perspective on this often queried topic we have prepared the following simple but effective analogy. And for those customers that are so inclined, we also have prepared a few tips to help guide you through what we have learned over the years to be the most effective way to clean a solar array.

To offer up an analogy that works well, a car windshield and a solar module are both pieces of tempered glass that are mounted at an angle. A car windshield may get dirty here in Arizona from time to time, but it will never get too dirty to see through and after a good rain it will be fairly clean. Similarly, a solar array may get dirty from time to time but never too dirty to generate a substantial amount of its rated power and after a rain it, too, will be fairly clean.

To date, American Solar Electric is not aware of any instances in our history where accumulation of either dust or other debris has caused any significant compromise in solar power production. Of course the solar array will produce optimally when clean, just like a car windshield will perform optimally when clean. And just like a car windshield, a solar module may be easily cleaned whenever the owner feels obliged to do so.

Much like washing a car windshield, a mild solution of soap and luke warm water is the most effective way to go about the task. Wash the panels down using the solution and either a sponge, a rag, or a mop. Once clean, give them a rinse and then dry with a towel. If you are not reasonably capable of safely performing the task of cleaning and would like your array cleaned, then you may contact American Solar Electric for service.

Another useful tip is that we recommend you monitor the power production of your solar system. A small but consistent drop in power production may be an indication that you should take a look at the solar array up close and determine if it should be cleaned.

Safety Notice: Access to roof mounted solar electric systems will typically require the use of a ladder. Use common sense and comply with all OSHA fall protection and prevention requirements when working above ground and at or near the top of a ladder.