

## Cleaning solar panels and what to look out for

### **When do the panels need cleaning?**

Generally the rain will provide all the cleaning that solar panels require.

Additional cleaning may be required

- during long dry periods when dust has built up
- in very dusty conditions
- where excessive grime or debris has built up
- if a lot of bird droppings are evident

The loss of production from a small amount of dust or bird poop is minimal and will generally be under 5% of overall production.

When quoting you for a solar system we factor in this 5% loss.

So don't worry about normal dirt and let nature clean the panels for you.

To help nature along we suggest not mounting panels flat.

*Do not attempt to go onto the roof to clean solar panels without being fully aware of and complying with, Safe Work at Heights rules and wearing all required safety equipment.*

### **When is the best time to clean solar panels?**

The best time to clean solar panels is when the panels are not hot.

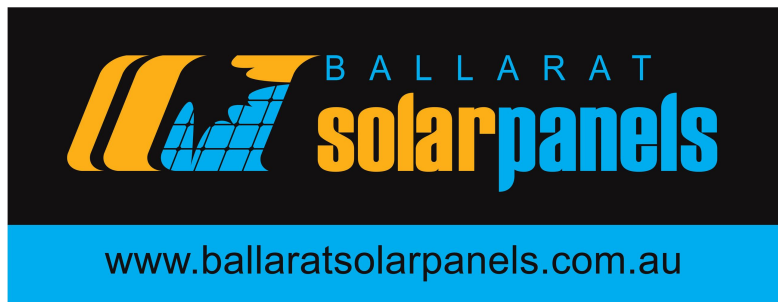
So that would make an early morning on a cloudy cold day ideal.

The middle of a hot summer's day is not a good time to be cleaning solar panels.

### **What do I need to clean solar panels?**

A normal pressure garden hose with a soft sponge and a bucket of water with dishwashing detergent mixed in is all you need.

**The safest way to clean the panels is from the ground, with a long-handled implement.**



## What should I look out for?

### Panels

- Chips
- Cracks
- Discoloration

### Mounting

- Fastenings are secure
- Fastenings and rail are in good condition

### Inverter Maintenance

- Keep the inverter clean.
- Check the inverter is operating
- Check the inverter anti islanding function
  - The process for this check varies between inverter brands.
  - Refer to your inverter manual for detailed instructions.
  - Basically it requires the inverter to be shut down and turned back on. When turned back on the inverter should not make power for 60 seconds. Most inverters will show a countdown from 60 on the LED display.

**Always use a certified expert for any works on your solar system**