SunElevated

Why Should You Clean Your Solar Panels?

If you think about everything we clean...our cars, our homes, even ourselves...the main reason you clean it is to extend its longevity so you don't have to replace it or have to repair it sooner. Our lifespan as a species is significantly longer today than 100 years ago largely due to our health and cleanliness practices. The same is true with solar panel cleaning. Regular cleaning will extend the life of the panels and decrease how quickly they degrade. You made a significant long-term investment in your home. This helps protect that investment so you get a long-term return on it. You will also see some increased power production after they are cleaned - we've seen as much as 35% increases. That extra power that you'll get is an added plus, but should not be the **only** reason you're cleaning your panels.

1. SOLAR PANEL CLEANING BENEFITS

Cleaner Panels = increased lifespan, better performance and lessened solar panel degradation. There are *three main items* that will affect long-term performance of your solar panels:

1 HARD WATER

Over time, hard water can leave water spots and cause calcium build up on your panels, with ultimately leads to scaling. This scaling can reduce electrical output of your solar panels, reverse their polarity, and lead to hot spot that can ultimately ruin your panels. We see the most hard water spots during our Spring cleanings caused from winter's snowfall and our muddy, acidic winter rains.

2 GRIME

As snow and dirty rain hit your solar system, dirt dries and creates grime and cloudiness on your panels, which lowers production. Long - term grime and dirt builtup on your panels will reduce long - term solar performance. This is also a significant issue during our Spring cleanings.

3 POLLEN & TREE SAP

Pollen and tree sap build up on your solar panels can significantly affect their efficiency, with research showing that during peak pollen seasons, solar panel performance can decrease by as much as 15% due to pollen and tree sap accumulation, especially from trees like cypress, juniper, pine and oak. As pollen and tree sap attaches and melts to the panels, it will need to be removed by thoroughly scrubbing them off. We typically see the most pollen and tree sap activity during the summer and early fall. Adding a fall solar panel cleaning is important to get all this removed from your panels.



Rain, while effective at removing surface level dust, is not enough to fully remove hard water spots, grime and pollen/tree sap. This creates the need for cleaning and scrubbing the solar panels. It is important to be done with the right equipments and PURE water filteration system.

Before and After Photos - when we encounter significant grime, hard water spots, pollen or any other inspection concerns, we'll take photos and send those to you for your review. Additionally, we will take before and after photos of your panels at every cleaning to demonstrate the visible difference of your solar panels.

2. INSPECTIONS

1. **Roof Inspection** - We inspect the roof around your solar panel array, checking for soft spots in your roof. Soft spots in your roof can lead to leaks, sagging and further deterioration of the roof, especially if the soft spots are not addressed promptly.
2. **Roof Shingle Integrity** - We inspect your shingles for any issues you should be aware of. Regular inspections lead to early detection and can save the life of your roof and your pocketbook.
3. **Solar Electrical Conduit** - We inspect the conduit that houses all of your electrical wiring for your solar system to ensure that it is secured properly to the roof.
4. **Solar Panels Secured to Racking System** - We check to ensure your panels are attached to the racking system. In situations where they are not, we either tighten them up, schedule a follow up time to do so, or inform you so you can call your solar installer.
5. **Solar Panel Cracks or Electrical Damage** - We perform a visual inspection of your panels for cracks or noticeable damage that will cause them to not work properly. We also look for any hot spots, burn marks on your panels, or exposed connection issues.
6. **Wire Management** - We inspect under your panels to ensure no low hanging wires are touching your roof that could create fire hazards. If any items are not attached properly, our teams are equipped with the knowledge and tools to reattach them.
7. **Critter Inspection Under Panels** - We inspect under your panels to ensure that you don't have any critters like pigeons or squirrels nesting, which can wreak havoc.
8. **Pigeon/Critter Guard Inspection** - When we're on your roof cleaning your panels, we'll also inspect the critter guard each time and reinforce any parts that are getting loose due to weather or bird activity.

3. PIGEON/CRITTER GUARD WARRANTY

Biannual and Triannual Solar Panel Cleaning customers who have their pigeon/critter guard job completed by **SunElevated** also receive an additional warranty benefit. Since we're on your roof twice per year performing the pigeon/critter guard inspection, at the time of your cleaning we take on the liability of your critter guard and give you a bumper-to-bumper warranty, which includes cleanup should the guard ever come loose and birds get back underneath.

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