

THE 5 REASONS  
YOU SHOULD GET  
YOUR SOLAR  
PANELS  
PROFESSIONALLY  
CLEANED





# INTRODUCTION

You could be damaging your solar panels every time you clean them without even knowing it. Don't risk your systems health and your own safety.

## **5 REASONS YOU SHOULD GET YOUR SOLAR PANELS CLEANED BY A PROFESSIONAL**

Cleaning solar panels seems like a simple task. But if done incorrectly you could be causing damage to your system that will lead to massive problems in the future that will cost you money. Cleaning the system should be completed by a qualified and solar accredited electrician. And with the increase into false advertisement of "professional solar panel cleaners" it is easy to get caught out. Here is 5 reasons why you get your solar panels professionally cleaned.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 *Why clean your panels?*
- 02 *Safety*
- 03 *Electrocution*
- 04 *Are you damaginng you panels?*
- 05 *Is your system functioning efficiently?*



# WHY CLEAN YOUR PANELS?

You have most likely been told that your solar panels will self-clean once it rains. Due to the pitch of your roof rainfall will naturally clean your panels most of the time. But there are many factors that will cause rain to not be an efficient method of cleaning. One of the main reasons you will need to thoroughly clean your panels is lichen.



## WHATS GROWING ON YOUR PANELS?

Lichen is fast becoming the leading cause in poor panel production. Due the perfect growing conditions. Lichens are not plants and do not need a continuous flow of water to survive like other plants.

Because of this they can grow in locations impossible for most plants, such as bare rock, various artificial structures and even the glass of solar panels. They grow their own food via photosynthesis, and this explains why they can grow on the glass of solar panels in the first place. Lichen grows quite large and because of this, can block several cells on your panels causing overall production to drastically drop. An easy way to stop this from happening is regular cleaning by a trained professional.

# SAFETY

Now for most people, paying for someone to come and complete the simple task of cleaning their panels seems like a waste of money. Why would you get someone to do it when you're perfectly capable of doing it yourself?

## IS CLEANING PANELS SAFE?

While the cleaning of the panels is a simple task there are many factors that can cause it to become dangerous very quickly. A big hazard is the fall factor. Working on a roof is a challenge within itself and most homeowners probably don't have the proper safety equipment. Add water to this mix and you've got yourself a recipe for disaster. By calling a professional you are ensuring the task is going to be performed safely as they will have all the safety equipment necessary. Including edge protection/harnesses, a water pack instead of a hose and even gutter guards and tie downs to prevent the ladder from damaging your cutter or slipping off.



# ELECTROCUTION

We all know that water and electricity doesn't mix. Obviously, you're going to need to spray water onto your panels to clean them. So how do you know that you're not going to electrocute yourself? And if an electric fault occurs would you know how to stop it?

## CAN YOU GET ELECTROCUTED?

Most domestic solar systems are operating between 200-600Volts DC. At these voltages it will produce enough current that will kill you if you get an electric shock. And while every system is installed with DC isolators, the isolators don't stop the panels from producing power. They only stop the flow of electricity to the inverter. So why take the risk? A professional will adequately know how to isolate the system completely and clean each panel without causing an electric fault. They will also be able to check over the system to pick up on any existing faults that may be present before introducing the water for cleaning. Things you would have missed leading to electrocution.

# ARE YOU DAMAGING YOUR PANELS?

So, you have decided to clean the panels yourself. But how do you actually clean them? Should you use a sponge or a brush? What type of brush is best? Can you pressure wash them? Do you need anything other than water?

## HOW SHOULD THE PANELS BE CLEANED?

The best method for cleaning your panels is with a large brush that covers the width of your panels, preferably extendable, allowing you to reach if you have multiple rows. But if the hairs on your brush are too hard you will cause scratches on your panels. As every solar panel has a glass coating that protects the electronics of the panel, scratching the glass will cause an indentation to form. Once water enters it will naturally expand and contract causing the scratch to turn into a crack. This process will continue eventually allowing water to pass through the glass onto the actual panel. This will create a hot spot on the panel which can lead to a fire.

A gentle scrub with a soft brush is enough to clean the panels. Soaps and other cleaning products should not be used as they can leave a film or residue that not only shades panels like the dirt that was just washed off, but it can also encourage dirt to stick and build up faster.

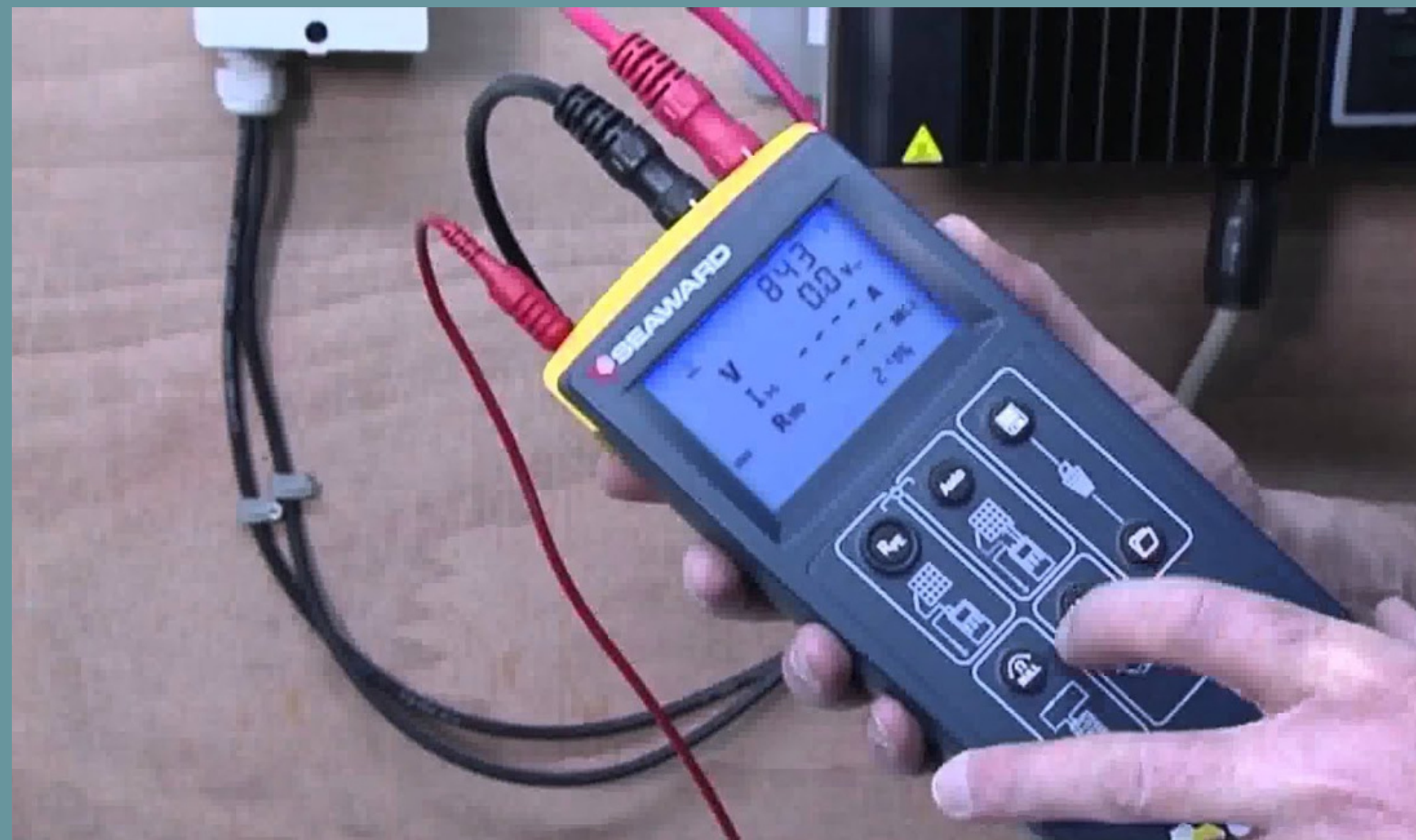
And while a pressure washer is a quick and easy way of cleaning nearly everything, they should NEVER be used to clean solar panels as they will cause damage to the panels or the panel cables.

# IS YOUR SYSTEM FUNCTIONING EFFICIENTLY?

Now that your panels are clean and shiny again, how do you know that your system is still producing as much as the day it was installed? Sure, your inverter shows that your system is producing power but how do you know each individual panel is operating as efficiently as it should? Is there a way you can thoroughly test to show that your system is still producing as much as it should be?

## HOW CAN YOU TEST IT?

Each panel on your roof has a maximum power output. Depending on the brand and year they were installed, the maximum output will vary. Once all the panels are combined this will give you your total array size of your solar system. Over time the output of some panels can decrease which will result in an overall decrease of your solar system output. Now this should not happen for several years but without the proper maintenance you will be none the wiser if this unlikely event were to occur earlier than it should.





Having a professional conduct yearly maintenance checks will ensure that these problems are picked up on early allowing you to have piece of mind that your solar system is both clean and operating as efficiently as possible. To guarantee you're getting both a qualified electrician and a solar accredited installer don't hesitate to get in contact with me today.

CONTACT ME NOW!

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