



## ENERGY CONNECTIONS

### SOLAR SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Following is an extract from the CEC guide to installing PV for households. You may be contacted by your electricity distributor regarding your obligations in relation to maintaining your solar system. As a CEC accredited installer we can provide these maintenance checks to ensure your system is operating correctly and you are getting the best results from it. Give us a call on 03 5941 4240 if you would like any information.

**ONCE YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTALLED, IT'S TIME TO START SAVING MONEY ON YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS - BUT YOU ALSO NEED TO MAKE SURE YOUR SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED SO IT CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AND SAFELY.**

#### SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

A solar system is a complex electricity-generating piece of equipment, and to keep it safe and operating efficiently, it is vital to both maintain your system and operate it safely. A maintenance schedule will be provided by your solar PV retailer or installer that you must take note of and follow. This is necessary to ensure that:

- it is operating correctly
- the system performance is maintained
- the system is safe for everyone in the premises as well as for any electrical workers working on the distribution network

Make sure you engage a CEC-accredited installer to undertake maintenance work on your solar PV system. Maintaining your system means much more than just cleaning your panels. An accredited installer will check that the system is functioning safely and efficiently, allowing you to maximise the savings on your power bills for years to come.

Some distributors may request that an anti-islanding test of the inverter be carried out periodically. Check with your distributor as each will have different requirements.

#### INSPECTIONS

Following the installation of your solar PV system, safety inspections may be carried out by the relevant electrical authority. Depending on which state you live in, these inspections may be mandatory or may occur on a random audit basis. In some states, your installer is responsible for organising the inspection of your system. The inspection may need to be carried out before the system can be connected to the grid.

#### UPGRADING YOUR SYSTEM

Your ability to upgrade your system in future may depend on receiving permission from your distributor, on suitable PV modules still being available, and on any upgrades meeting current Australian Standards. Upgrading your system may also result in losing your feed-in tariff. You will need to check with your electricity retailer and distributor to find out what the requirements are for upgrading your system. The requirements may differ from state to state.

#### SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING

When your solar panels eventually reach the end of their life, panel recycling programs are being set up to ensure the materials are disposed of correctly or re-purposed.

'Reclaim PV' is one organisation that has set up a take back and reclaiming scheme. Reclaim PV has set up recycling partnership programs with several solar panel suppliers. When purchasing your solar panels, ask your supplier whether they have a panel recycling program in place. Visit [reclaimpv.com](http://reclaimpv.com) for more information.