



SOLAR GUIDE · PUNJAB

Solar maintenance and troubleshooting guide

A solar system needs little care, but the care it needs matters: clean panels, a monthly reading, and a quick look when something changes. This guide sets out the routine and what to check, safely, when output drops.

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Safety first

The panels make power whenever there is light, and the DC side carries high voltage. Never open the inverter, the distribution boxes or a panel's connectors. Never step on panels or climb on the structure. For anything beyond cleaning and reading the display, call your installer.

The routine

Every month

1. ☐ Note the inverter's total units, and the net meter's import and export, on the same date.
2. ☐ Compare this month's units with the same month last year, or with the estimate in your quote.
3. ☐ Look at the panels from the roof: dust, bird droppings, leaves, new shade.
4. ☐ Look at the inverter's display for warnings.

When the panels are dirty

- 5. ☐ Clean them early in the morning or in the evening, when they are cool.
- 6. ☐ Use clean water and a soft cloth, sponge or brush on a pole.
- 7. ☐ No pressure washer, detergent or abrasive pad.
- 8. ☐ Clean more often in dry months, near roads and fields, and in the smoke season.

Every few months

- 9. ☐ Check that cables are still clipped in their conduit or tray and not chafing.
- 10. ☐ Check the structure's fixings and the roof sealing after storms.
- 11. ☐ For tubular batteries: check the water level and top up with distilled water only.
- 12. ☐ Keep the inverter's vents clear of dust and anything stored against it.

Once a year

- 13. ☐ Have the installer check the earthing and the protection devices.
- 14. ☐ Check that trees or new buildings have not started to shade the panels.
- 15. ☐ Check the warranty cards are still with the invoice.

When generation drops: what to check

What you see	Likely causes	What you can check safely	When to call
Lower units than last month	Dust, shorter days, a cloudy or foggy spell	Clean the panels; compare with the same month last year	Panels clean, weather clear, still low
Zero units on a sunny day	Grid outage (on-grid switches off), a tripped breaker, an inverter fault	Is the grid on? Is there an error on the display?	Grid is on and the inverter shows an error or nothing
Output falls in the afternoon	New shade, or heat	Watch the roof for shade at that time	Shade is not the cause
Inverter shows an error	Grid voltage, an earth fault, an internal fault	Photograph the screen	Always; send the photo
Battery backup shorter than before	Battery ageing, more load, low water in a tubular battery	What is running in the cut? Tubular water level?	Backup keeps falling
Export never rises	You use everything you make, or a meter or wiring issue	Check the net meter's export total on a bright, quiet afternoon	It stays at zero

Expect seasonal change. We plan on 102 units a month per kW across the year, with more in spring and early summer and less in foggy December and January. [Generation by location](#) shows the month-by-month pattern for your town, and [solar output in winter fog](#) explains the winter dip.

Keep a simple log

A notebook or a phone note with four numbers each month (the inverter total, import, export and the date) shows a problem within weeks instead of at the next bill. [How to read your solar meter and bill](#) explains the sum that gives your home's real use.

Warranty claims

Claims go through the manufacturer's warranty, with the invoice, the warranty card and the serial number. Photograph the fault, note when it started, and send both to your installer to raise the claim.

Batteries

- Tubular: distilled water only, clean terminals, a cool ventilated place, and not run flat every day. See tubular battery care.
- Lithium: no water; keep it out of the heat and recharge fully when you can. See lithium battery care.

Questions we are asked

How often should solar panels be cleaned in Punjab?

When dust or smoke settles on them, which is more often in dry months, near roads and fields, and in the stubble-burning season. Clean water and a soft cloth or brush, in the early morning or evening, is enough.

Why has my solar generation dropped?

Most often dirty panels, a cloudy or foggy spell, or new shade. If the panels are clean and the weather is clear but output is still low, or the inverter shows an error, call your installer.

Is it safe to clean panels myself?

Only if you can reach them safely from the roof without climbing on the panels or the structure. Never use a pressure washer or harsh chemicals, and never open the inverter or the distribution boxes.

Work out your own figures

Solar generation by location

Units a month from a system in your town, month by month.

Solar calculator

Size, subsidy, cost and payback from your PSPCL bill.

Figures on subsidies, tariffs and schemes are as published by the government at the dates shown and can change. Prices and generation figures are estimates for planning, not a quotation or a guarantee.