



Maintenance for your new solar (PV) system

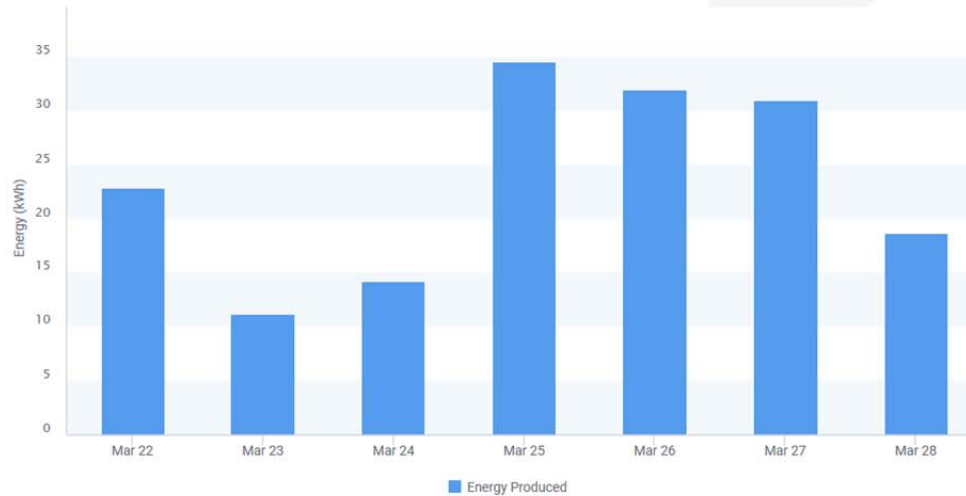
Going solar always seems to bring up the question about ongoing maintenance that folks might need to take care of. If you are putting solar on your house and you are not putting in a huge commercial solar plant there are a couple of things you need to do regardless if you leased it or bought it.

- 1- **Clean the glass!** – Over time dust, tree pollen, you name it will accumulate on the glass up there and begin to slow the system's production. A good design will take this into account so not to worry. Rain actually does a great job cleaning the glass, but if you don't see rain for say 6 months or more you want to consider cleaning them. In general at least once a year in a non-rainy area.

<u>Cleaning Do's</u>	<u>Cleaning Don't</u>
<u>Use your hose water</u>	<u>Use high pressure gun or hose</u>
<u>Rinse from ground or ladder safely</u>	<u>Climb on wet roof to clean panels</u>
<u>Call your installer or look online For panel cleaning company</u>	<u>Use any type of solvents or chemicals</u>

- 2- **Check your monitoring!** – All of today's systems are being installed with internet based monitoring functionality so it's as easy as logging in to your account to check on how your panels are producing power. I recommend once a month to check for production being recorded. As months and years accumulate you will get a sense of what is normal. It should be noted that all panels will show a slight decrease in energy output as the years go by. The best panels decline by about 0.25% each year with many other seeing about 0.5% decline per year. Again a good design will take this into account so not to worry. You can also reference your design to know how much it should be producing in a given year or month.

Example graph of daily solar energy output:



I also mentioned in the video that a screen barrier is an option that your installer can add around your panels if you want to keep out the local squirrels or pigeons. It adds a little cost of course so make sure you really need it.



I realize this doesn't address every situation so as always feel free to reach out if I can help answer anything related here or for other general solar questions you might have!

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Resources:

<https://invisiblesunenergy.com/faq-%26-blog>

About InvisibleSun Energy Consulting

InvisibleSun Energy provides consultation for residential and small business solar electric and energy storage systems. We look at your individual needs and help match you with the best products and licensed installation contractors that we have partnered with. Our mission is to be recognized for delivering an individualized and non rushed service to homeowners with energy needs of all sizes and become a service you could happily recommend.

The inspiration for creating InvisibleSun Energy was my observation that homeowners are not always offered the comprehensive, unbiased service they deserve when it comes to going solar. With the growing number of products and services available I felt it was time to create a better way.

From start to finish we work with you to explain and provide the most cost effective solution available. We work with the finest quality, proven technologies that allow us to maximize your renewable energy potential and deliver a great return on your investment. Going solar is typically a big decision, and we recognize that a happy customer is the key to our reputation.

About the owner, Clayton Coate



Clayton is an experienced Solar Sales & Design professional in the solar industry since 2008. His passion for the solar industry lies in his concern for the quality of our environment and the responsible use of tomorrow's resources. He is ultimately driven by the belief that solar power can make a real difference to our world one home at a time. His work includes the design and implementation of a wide range of rooftop and ground mounted PV systems throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, as well managing the front line support for hundreds of US solar contractors in the field.

The core of his business philosophy can be found in the innate customer oriented approach to his work. As a homeowner he values the importance of working with a dependable, competent contractor who makes the process transparent and easy.

Clayton brings a fundamental understanding of construction and home improvement having spent time in residential remodeling, and the design and construction of high end racing yachts as an East Coast native. These experiences taught him early on the importance of the connection between construction and design.

Clayton holds a Bachelors of Business Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco and a Certificate of Yacht Design from the Landing School of Boatbuilding and Design in Kennebunkport, ME. And a NABCEP PV Technical Sales Certification.