

Tips of the trade



Solar power system safety

Solar panels and equipment are easily damaged, and they may carry live electrical current even when the sun is not shining. Follow these tips to protect system components – and to protect yourself from electrical shock.



Order our **FREE** worker safety kit on the National Grid e-SMARTworkers website.

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Locate all equipment

Ask the building owner or property manager to point out solar panels, conduits, batteries and all related equipment. Once you know the location of system components, take care to keep ladders, tools and supplies away from them.

Avoid conduits, panels and pipes

- **Watch out for conduits.** The conduits that lead away from an array of solar panels carry electrical current strong enough to severely injure or kill you if you make contact with the wires inside. Keep in mind that conduits may run from a rooftop down the outside of a building.
- **Keep a safe distance from solar panels.** The top surfaces of solar panels are made of glass that will crack or break if a heavy object falls on them. If possible, maintain a 2- to 3-foot safety perimeter around panels and mounts.
- **Protect solar water heating systems.** These systems heat water by circulating it through solar collectors. Take care around these installations and their input and output pipes.

Be alert for underground cables

Buried cables that carry electricity from privately owned ground-level solar panels to homes and businesses may not be recognizably marked. If you must dig or move earth in any way near a ground-level solar panel, contact 811 and check with the property owner to locate underground electric lines.

Would you like to know more?

Additional utility safety tips, case studies, instructional videos and educational tools can all be found, at no charge to you, on National Grid's [contractor safety website](#).

For more contractor safety information, visit ngridssafety.com.

To report emergencies, **call 911** and **National Grid** immediately. Always **call 911** if you suspect a gas leak!

Smell Gas. Act Fast.



Know what's **below**.
811 before you dig.

In case of gas emergencies:

Long Island and the Rockaways:
911 and 1-800-490-0045

Metro New York:
911 and 1-718-643-4050

Upstate New York:
911 and 1-800-892-2345

Massachusetts:
911 and 1-800-233-5325

In case of electric emergencies:

Upstate New York:
911 and 1-800-867-5222

Massachusetts:
911 and 1-800-465-1212