



Top 5 Solar Maintenance Tips

Solar systems are pretty low maintenance, especially in relatively mild climates like Maryland’s. But they last longest and work best when they're well maintained. These five maintenance tips will help you **lengthen the life** of your solar system, ensure **optimal energy production**, and **increase the benefits** you're getting from your investment.

1. Monitor your energy production.

While energy production varies based on factors like the weather, be sure to **check for drastic or sudden dips** that could mean your system isn’t working properly. You can see the reading, in kilowatt-hours (kWh), on your system's monitoring portal online or on your app.

2. Don’t use soap or chemicals on your panels.

Soap and chemicals can leave a film on your panels or even cause the surface to degrade. And that can negatively impact your solar production. In most cases, you don't need to wash your solar panels at all. **Rain and snow naturally clean them.** In areas with less rain and lots of dust or pollutants in the air, occasional cleaning with water may improve performance, but never use chemicals or soap.

3. Leave the snow. It’ll melt!

It's not necessary, so there's **no sense risking a fall.** Panels are dark and slick, so snow will melt or slide off pretty quickly with a little sunshine. Once the panels are clear (even partially), your array will start generating electricity again.

4. Keep your installer contract handy.

The contract you signed with your solar installer can include instructions for requesting maintenance services, pricing for routine inspections, and a description of how your monitoring system will alert you to production problems. Be sure to **keep it filed** someplace you can easily find it.

5. Get checkups.

We recommend getting a check-up every 3 to 5 years to ensure things remain in good working order. Your installer or any qualified solar professional can inspect your system.

BONUS! Enjoy discounts on maintenance services!

We’ve teamed up with Palmetto to provide discounted solar maintenance service. This is an especially great option if your installer is no longer in business or if your warranty has expired.

Request service at: palmetto.com/request-service
Get the discount by putting “Solar United Neighbors” in the *Additional Questions or Details* section.

Full system inspection:	\$250	\$225
Annual visual inspection:	\$125	\$99
Cleaning (per panel):	\$12	\$10
...and more – from pest abatement to reinstallation.		