Recalls

Fires caused by faulty dc isolator switches used on solar power systems have prompted the following brands to be recalled:

- AVANCO
- SPM
- NHP
- GEN3
- PVPower
- ISOMax
- HGN4

You can check whether your isolator switch has been recalled by checking its brand and model number under the electrical category at **www.recalls.gov.au**. There may be several dc isolator switches in your system, so you will need to check them all.

If you find any components that have been recalled, follow the shutdown procedure and stop using the system immediately. If you are unsure about the brand of isolator switch you have, contact your installer or electrical contractor for further advice.

For more information on electrical safety contact the Electrical Safety Office:

1300 362 128

electricalsafety.qld.gov.au

or via our Facebook and Twitter social media pages

AEU16/5552

Photo courtesy of Clean Energy Council

Solar power system electrical safety

Solar power systems (also known as photo-voltaic or solar PV systems) need regular maintenance to keep them running safely and efficiently.

Queensland Government

Safety tip

A solar power system's panels will continue to generate power during the day, even if the main power has been disconnected or the system has been shut down at the switchboard.

Maintaining your solar power system

If your solar power system has been properly installed and well maintained, it should last many years. You should have it checked by an accredited solar installer or licensed electrician annually or according to manufacturer requirements. Never do your own electrical maintenance or repairs. Your installer should have provided you with information outlining the recommended schedule for the system's maintenance.

Maintenance

Faults in a solar power system can be caused by water and moisture seepage over time. Other damage or deterioration could be as a result of vermin, accumulated debris, hail, wind or even sunlight. Maintenance should ensure:

- cooling vents are clear of debris
- panels are clean, secure and free of defects
- switches are free of defects
- no parts have deteriorated or corroded
- the wiring's insulation has not deteriorated or been damaged
- the battery storage system (if it is part of your system) is in good order.

Safety tip

The solar system should be shut down before anyone accesses the rooftop, gutters or the solar panels.

In an emergency

Solar power systems can be a significant risk when cleaning up after a storm or flood. If you need to shut the system down in an emergency, follow the shutdown procedure located at the inverter or on the main switchboard. You may damage the system by not following the correct shutdown procedure. Do not attempt to turn off a solar power system if any of the components of the system are water or storm damaged.

If your system has been damaged (or you think it may have been damaged) contact your electrician or installer for advice.

Safety on roofs and in ceiling spaces

Besides the risk of a fall, there are serious electrical safety risks in ceiling spaces and on roof tops. It is best to leave all solar power system maintenance work to electricians and installers.

If you do any general maintenance activity near solar power systems tasks, take particular care around the supply cables running from the panels on the roof to the inverter unit, as they will be live when the solar panels are generating electricity.

If you go up into your ceiling space, remember that even if you turn off all the main power switches at the switchboard first, the cables from the solar power system going to the inverter, and the main power supply entering your house from the street to the switchboard will still be live.