

# **Are solar panels and solar panels flammable**





## Overview

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### Can solar panels cause fires?

Solar panels have been in use in the U.S. for several decades now. Notably, only a few fires can be linked to PV modules. Unfortunately, electrical systems often risk causing fires, and solar panels are no exemption. However, if you understand what causes fires, you can eliminate the problem. Image Credit: [solarity.eu](https://www.solarity.eu).

### Are solar panels combustible?

Even if the roof has a non-combustible metal surface, the insulation underneath could present a fire risk. If LPS 1181 or FM-approved panels are installed, their fire resistance is typically tested without solar panels on top. When installed with solar panels, the roof panels must be treated as combustible due to the potential increased fire risk.

### Are old solar panels a fire hazard?

**Aged Panels:** As solar systems age, cables, inverters, and insulation can deteriorate. Damaged or worn-out components have a higher risk of malfunctioning and causing fires. **Statistics:** Studies show that aged PV modules are more prone to faults that increase fire risk.

### Can a solar panel fire damage a building?

Planning and design issues can also add to the risk of solar panel fires, causing damage to not just the PV installation, but the building on which they are mounted. An example of this would be a PV system being installed on a combustible/partially combustible roof, with no fire-resistant covering.



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