



# Will photovoltaic panel glass be damaged if air enters it

Can a glass breakage damage a PV module?

Glass breakage, without any extreme weather event or other obvious cause, is being reported on a small yet significant number of PV projects. This issue comes with the potential to damage PV module performance in the long term, or even cause safety hazards - and we will need to act fast to find both the cause and a practical solution.

What happens if a solar panel is damaged?

If one part of a solar panel is damaged, the energy output loss is considerable - almost as if you lost the entire panel. By installing more and smaller solar panels instead of fewer, larger ones, you can reduce the loss of energy output caused during a hail storm.

Are tempered glass solar panels safe?

Well-made solar panels are protected by a thick layer of tempered glass that can tolerate a substantial amount of hard impacts (we'll get into how solar panels are tested for impacts later). Tempered glass is known to withstand moderate hail and comes with a high safety rating so that it can be used outdoors for many years.

What happens if a solar panel breaks?

Large hail exceeding 2 cm in diameter poses the highest probability of broken glass. Fractured panels become much less productive as light reflects rather than transmits through to the underlying solar cells. They also become safety risks for fire and electrocution if moisture seeps in.

Does a crack in a photovoltaic module affect performance?

Not all external cracks will result in reduced performance, though. In some cases, the damage is purely cosmetic or only on the surface. Hail is a problem for photovoltaic (PV) modules because most warranties do not cover damage related to hailstorms.

Are solar panels impenetrable?

Solar panel technology is ever-changing and improving -- but it doesn't make the panels impenetrable. Since the panels are made from outward-facing glass, they are vulnerable to damage from extreme weather and age. Water and hail damage to solar panels can feel like tricky problems to solve.

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