

# Dark spots on photovoltaic panels

Can discoloration damage a solar panel?

In some cases, severe discoloration could potentially indicate damage, although the presence of discoloration does not necessarily imply a solar panel defect. The most common defects in solar panels include issues such as hot spots, snail trails, and imperfections in the materials.

Why do I have dark spots on my solar panels?

Without a secure seal, moisture and air can enter the system, causing corrosion and substantially reducing panel performance. If you see dark spots on your panels, this could be a sign that your panels are undergoing delamination, and you should contact your installer for an inspection.

How to detect hot spots in solar panels?

You can detect an emerging hot spot with an infrared camera only. Eventually, hot spots in solar panels become visible to the eye: the problematic cell becomes brownish. Hot spots lead to a faster solar panel degradation and can even start a fire on your roof. To avoid that, clean your panels from dirt every now and then.

What causes hot spots on solar panels?

Hot spots, one of the most common issues with solar systems, occur when areas on a solar panel become overloaded and reach high temperatures relative to the rest of the panel. When current flows through solar cells, any resistance within the cells converts this current into heat losses.

What does a dark area on a solar panel mean?

Darker areas indicate module faults or defects, while darkest areas correspond to module power loss due to severe solar cell cracks. GPOA: measured plane of array irradiance. Courtesy of Gisele Benatto and Peter Poulsen/DTU. This can be a problem for installations in the field.

How do I know if my solar panels are delaminated?

If you see dark spots on your panels, this could be a sign that your panels are undergoing delamination, and you should contact your installer for an inspection. Micro cracks are tiny tears in solar cells stemming from haphazard shipping and installation or defects in manufacturing.

Shortwave IR (SWIR) imaging captures solar panel electroluminescence, which can be used to spot defects via a rapid scan of a panel. A moving drone image of outdoor panels in daylight, using DC electrical modulation (a). The results with ...

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