

## Solar Panel Installations

This guide has been prepared to assist with the building permit requirements for the installation of solar panels as part of a photovoltaic (PV) or solar hot water (SHW) system on a new or existing building.



Solar panel installations impose additional loads on the roof framing that may exceed the roof structures original design. To ensure a building is structurally acceptable for the installation of solar panels, a registered professional qualified in structural engineering will be required to evaluate the buildings structural capacity and attachment of the panels to the structure.

The following information is required at the time of permit application:

- Preliminary planning review form
- Property declaration form
- Building permit application form
- Agent authorization form (if applicable)
- Architectural details of the solar panel installation, including components and manufacturer's specifications
- Roof plan to show pitch of roof, overall height of the structure including panels, panel location and percentage of roof coverage.
- Structural drawings of the solar panel loads, and anchoring details signed and sealed by a structural engineer complete with letters of assurance
- Plumbing drawings if there is an alteration to the plumbing system
- Sealed Engineer's report confirming existing structure is safe to use as support for the installation of solar panels

An electrical permit will be required and can be obtained from Technical Safety BC

**For more information, please contact:**

Building Inspection Services  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
 250-390-6530  
 [building@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:building@rdn.bc.ca)

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