
FACT SHEET: SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

A solar hot water system will generally require very little maintenance.

To ensure that you obtain optimal performance from your solar hot water system some simple preventative maintenance is recommended. In all cases the recommendations of your manufacturer should be followed.

Six Monthly Maintenance:

- Regular usual maintenance should be undertaken on a hot water cylinder – hot and cold relief valves should be flushed every 6 months.

Annual Inspection Maintenance:

- A visual inspection of the solar hot water collectors should be undertaken annually to:
 - Check for leaks. Evidence of condensation shows if leaks exist.
 - Check for broken glass or damaged tubes. If any glass is broken or damaged (flat plate or evacuated tube) you should contact your installer as the panel or tube will need to be replaced.
- Have the anode checked. The anode in a glass lined hot water cylinder checked. This should be replaced every 5 years. If you are not sure how to do this contact your installer.
- Wash the collector panels or tubes to remove dirt as this will adversely affect the performance of the system.
- Check for shading from trees or other obstructions
- Check for a build up of debris (leaves, twigs etc) around the collector and remove as these may cause corrosion or adversely affect the performance of your system.
- Check the controller settings to ensure the efficient performance of the system.
- Check for any discolouration of tubes or collector plate.

Five Yearly:

- Replace the anode on a glass lined hot water cylinder
- If the solar hot water system uses glycol or a glycol-water mixture this should be replaced once every five years, or according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Frost Protection Systems:

Following a very severe frost it may be necessary to ensure that the frost protection system (if applicable) is operating effectively if the solar hot water system is an open loop system.

If you have not been trained in working at heights, please do not undertake the collector maintenance yourself.

The five yearly maintenance should be undertaken by a professional installer.

If you would like to discuss a maintenance programme with Right House please contact a Right House Consultant.

