

# Protecting solar and battery systems during extreme weather and storms



Important information on what to do and how to ensure your safety



## Tropical Cyclone Alfred

Residents in Northern NSW are warned to prepare for damaging winds, large surf and heavy rainfall due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. **Stay informed** by visiting the NSW SES website: [ses.nsw.gov.au](https://ses.nsw.gov.au) and downloading the Hazards Near Me App: [nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app](https://nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app)

## Solar and battery systems

More than a third of NSW's electricity generation comes from renewable energy sources, including rooftop solar systems. More households and businesses are making the switch to solar to cut their energy bills and reduce emissions. Many are also installing a battery to store energy and maintain power during an outage.

It is important to know how to ensure your safety and protect your solar and battery system in the event of extreme weather and storms.

### What to do

#### Before

- Shut down your solar system for your own safety and to prevent damage to your systems due to power surges. To do this:
  - follow the installer's instructions, usually found at the inverter or main switchboard
  - contact the manufacturer or installer if you are unsure.
- Charge your battery and test the blackout function. The blackout function is when your battery automatically provides stored energy back to your home or business during an outage.
- Do not climb onto a roof to touch the solar system or its components.

#### During

- Monitor your battery level and reduce unnecessary power consumption.
- Do not approach or try to turn off your solar or battery system if any of the components have been damaged or submerged in water. Leave it to your installer or a licenced electrical contractor.
- Do not assume your systems are safe even if your energy provider has disconnected the electricity to your property. Solar systems continue to generate energy during daylight hours.
- Stay away from solar panels and wiring if you're forced onto a rooftop.

#### After

- Inspect your solar or battery system carefully from a distance, do not climb onto a rooftop.
- Do not touch any switches, attempt to repair or reconnect your solar or battery system - even if they look dry. There may be a build-up of moisture.
- Have your system inspected and recommissioned by your installer or a licensed electrical contractor. To check that your solar installer is accredited you can visit [saaustralia.com.au/accreditation-status-check](https://saaustralia.com.au/accreditation-status-check)

For more information visit the Climate and Energy Action website:  
[energy.nsw.gov.au/power-outage](https://energy.nsw.gov.au/power-outage)

