

FAQs

Solar Health and Safety

Are solar panels safe?

Solar panels are safe. They are built using strong sealants and thick sheets of glass, making it highly unlikely to cause harm to people or animals.

What makes solar panels safe after installation?

Solar panels remain safe for the entire time that they are operational. There are two safety precautions taken by solar installers: grounding and rapid shutdown.

- Grounding solar panels is similar to other electrical systems, such as the outlets in homes. By burying a copper rod and wiring into the ground, stray electrical currents will be directed away, ensuring that solar panel systems are **safe** in case of a lightning surge or short circuit.
- **Rapid shutdown** allows first responders to quickly de-energize solar panels in case of damages from external sources (e.g., storms or fires).

Do solar panels leak PFA toxins into soil and groundwater?

No. There is **no presence or leaching** of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) in solar panels. PFAS are **not used** in the manufacturing of solar panels.

Can solar panels be recycled?

Yes, solar panels are highly recyclable. Many components of solar panels – such as glass, aluminum, copper, and electronics – can all be **recycled or repurposed**. Texas is home to multiple solar recycling programs including one of the largest solar recycling facilities, **Solarcycle** in Odessa, Texas.



GigaTexas Tesla Gigafactory with solar panel rooftop
Austin, Texas
Source: Roschetzky Photography via Shutterstock