

### What to do if hailstorms damage your solar panels

The storms that hit southeast Queensland over the weekend were some of the most destructive in recent memory. Massive hail stones wrecked cars and windows, as well as roof tiles and solar panels.

Damaged solar generating systems pose a hazard to residents and electrical contractors. If you suspect your system has been damaged, please take the following precautions:

- Damaged solar cells or panels may still produce voltage and may pose a fire hazard or electric shock risk whilst in the sun.
- Broken panels may have left glass on your roof, gutter, and rainwater tanks. This poses slip, cut and falling object risks to persons around the home.
- Do not touch solar panels, invertors, and storage batteries if you suspect they may be damaged after a weather event.
- If safe to do so, shut the solar system down following the instructions labels or information left by your installer.
- Check with your insurance company regarding claims process and repair.
- If you are a tenant you will need to contact your landlord or rental management agent to make arrangements for hailstorm damage inspection and repair.

Contact a Master Electrician to arrange for the system to be inspected for operation and safety before returning the system to operation.