What SunnyMac Homeowners Should Know

As part of your **SunnyMac solar installation**, our design and electrical teams review your home's electrical system to ensure it can safely support your new solar equipment.

In some homes, we may need to **relocate the main electrical panel** to meet current electrical codes and building codes before installing solar. Oftentimes, this involves installing a code-compliant main electrical panel in the new location.

This ensures your system passes inspection and operates safely for years to come.

WHY SOLAR PROJECTS SOMETIMES REQUIRE PANEL RELOCATION

Solar systems connect directly to your home's **main electrical panel (MSP)**. Because of this, the panel must meet modern safety and workspace standards required by:

- The **National Electrical Code (NEC)**
- The **International Building Code (IBC)**
- Local building & electrical inspectors

If the panel location does not meet these requirements, inspectors will not approve the solar installation until it is corrected.

Common reasons relocation is required include:

- The panel is **inside a clothing closet or bathroom**
- There is **not enough working space around the panel**
- There is **no clear pathway to the panel**
- **Pipes, ducts, or other obstructions** are located above and/or below the panel
- The panel is installed in a location that **cannot safely support new solar connections**

Relocating the panel helps ensure your **solar system can be installed, inspected, and energized without delays.**

ELECTRICAL PANEL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Electrical panels must have adequate working space so electricians and inspectors can safely access them.

Current code requires:

3 ft	Clear space in front of the panel
30 in	Working width
6 ft 7 in	Headroom clearance

- Panels **cannot be installed in bathrooms or clothes closets**

- There must be **no permanent obstructions above the panel**

These rules apply to **all electrical systems** that require routine maintenance but are especially important when adding solar equipment.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A PANEL RELOCATION?

If relocation is required, our licensed electricians will safely move the panel to a code-compliant location.

Typical steps include:

- **Temporary power shutdown** during the work
- Installation of a **new electrical panel** in the approved location
- Safely reconnecting your home's circuits
- Connecting the system so it is ready for **solar installation**
- Updating circuit labels and panel directories
- Completing **required inspections**

In some cases, the old panel location may be used as a **sealed junction box** where existing wiring connections remain safely enclosed.

WHY MAY MY PANEL NEED TO BE OUTSIDE?

In some homes, the best code-compliant location may be **on the exterior wall of the home**.

Typically, moving the panel outside is the best option if the following are not viable:

- New panel shifted **along the original wall**
- New panel moved **within the same room to a new wall**
- New panel flipped **within the shared wall into an adjacent room**

Outdoor panels are very common and fully safe. If installed outside:

- Equipment is **weather-rated**
- Connections are **sealed and protected**
- The panel meets all **code compliance and inspection requirements**

The only difference is that if a breaker trips, you would reset it **outside instead of inside**.

WILL THIS AFFECT MY SOLAR INSTALLATION TIMELINE?

Panel relocation work is typically completed **before or during the solar installation** so that the system can pass inspection.

Completing this step early helps prevent:

- Failed inspections
- Utility interconnection delays
- Additional return visits

Our goal is to keep your project **moving smoothly toward Permission to Operate (PTO).**

WILL MY WALLS NEED TO BE OPENED?

Sometimes small openings are needed to safely route wiring between the old and new panel locations.

If this is required:

- Electrical work will be completed safely
- Drywall cutting may be necessary

IMPORTANT: Cosmetic drywall repairs are typically NOT included.

SUNNYMAC'S COMMITMENT

Our goal is to ensure your solar system is:

Safe
Code-compliant
Approved by inspectors
Built to support your home's long-term energy needs

Completing electrical upgrades like panel relocations helps ensure your solar system can operate **reliably and safely for decades.**

Welcome to the SunnyMac Family

Thank you for choosing SunnyMac. You're now on your way to cleaner energy, lower bills, and a smarter home.