



An Extended Guide · No. 1537

# Re-Roofing With Solar Panels Installed

---

Removing and reinstalling  
panels for a new roof

**Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal**

[BillsHomeTech.com](http://BillsHomeTech.com) · (330) 200-8042 · Atwater, Ohio

Free & printable — share it with someone who needs it



Book a visit —  
[billshometech.com/book](http://billshometech.com/book)

**! Read this first — this is professional, on-the-roof work**

Putting solar on a roof is expert, permitted work — not a weekend project. It means drilling into your roof and sealing every hole against water for decades, or setting heavy ballast your roof has to carry, all while working at a height where a fall can be deadly and around wiring that is live whenever the sun is up. This guide is here to help you understand and judge that work — so you can hire the right people and ask good questions — not to walk you up a ladder to do it yourself. For any roof-mounted system, use a licensed, insured, properly credentialed solar installer, make sure the required permit and inspection actually happen, and protect your roof's warranty before the first hole is drilled. And please don't climb up to inspect or adjust anything yourself — the roof is their job, not yours. Here the extra wrinkle is timing — getting a roof replaced once solar is already up means safely coordinating two different crews around the same panels, in the right order.

## The one thing solar changes about your next reroof

Roofs wear out and need replacing eventually — solar panels or not. What changes once panels are on your roof is how that reroofing job actually happens.

I'm Bill, and I help families around Portage County, Ohio think through home technology decisions without the sales pressure. One question I hear from solar owners, usually years after their install, is some version of: 'My roofer says I need a new roof — what happens to my panels?' It's a fair question, and a common one.

The short answer is that the panels come off, the roof gets redone, and the panels go back on — a process with its own coordination and its own planning. This guide walks through what that looks like, and why getting ahead of it is so much easier than reacting to it.

**★ The best time to think about this is before it happens**

If you're still deciding on solar, or your roof is getting up there in age, a quick conversation now can save a much bigger headache later. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

## The whole guide, on one page

If you remember only these things about reroofing with solar already installed, you're in good shape.

- ❑ Roofs eventually need replacing, solar or not — panels don't change that fact, just the process.
- ❑ If a roof under solar needs work, the panels must be removed and reinstalled — sometimes called 'R and R' for short.
- ❑ It's coordinated between your roofer and your solar company, not handled entirely by either one alone.
- ❑ It adds real cost and scheduling on top of an ordinary reroof.
- ❑ Someone has to safely store and protect the panels while the roof work happens.
- ❑ The simplest fix is planning ahead: if your roof is aging, consider reroofing before solar goes on, not after.

### ✓ Read it in any order

This guide is meant to be dipped into. Whether you're planning a first solar install or already facing a surprise reroof, skip to the section that fits where you are.

## Why a roof with solar still wears out

Solar panels shield the roof surface underneath them from weather, but they don't stop a roof from aging — and the parts around the array age right along with everything else.

Roofing materials have a working lifespan regardless of what sits on them. A roof under an array is still the same roof, built from the same materials, facing the same Ohio weather as the roof next door.

In fact, the areas right around the array — the edges, the flashing, the parts not physically covered by panels — see the same weather everything else does, and eventually need the same attention any aging roof needs.

### ✓ It's not a special problem

A roof under solar isn't more fragile or more failure-prone — it's simply a roof, on the same clock as any other, with one more thing to plan around when its time eventually comes.

## What 'remove and reinstall' actually means

You may hear your roofer or installer use this phrase — here's the plain-English version.

It describes the sequence: panels and racking come off the roof, the roofing underneath gets replaced, and then the panels go back up — on the same racking or freshly installed racking — resealed at every attachment. Some installers shorten it to 'R and R' in conversation.

It is not a repair and it is not a brand-new solar install — it is its own project, with its own scope, that exists specifically to let a roof get redone without permanently giving up the solar system already in place.

### ★ A phrase worth knowing

If an installer or roofer mentions removing and reinstalling your panels for a reroof, now you know exactly what that involves — and can ask informed questions about how they plan to handle it.

## Who does what in this kind of project

This isn't a one-company job. It takes your roofer and your solar company working from the same plan.

| Step                        | Who typically handles it |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Disconnecting the wiring    | A licensed electrician   |
| Removing panels and racking | Your solar company       |
| Replacing the roofing       | Your roofer              |
| Reinstalling and resealing  | Your solar company       |

✓ **This is exactly what coordination means**

Our guide on coordinating your roofer, installer, and electrician covers this kind of multi-company teamwork in depth — who's responsible for what, and how to keep everyone on the same page.

## Where do the panels go in the meantime?

It's a practical question worth asking before the job starts, not during it.

Once removed, panels need to be safely stored and protected somewhere on your property, or hauled off-site, until the new roof is ready for them. Who handles that, and how, is part of what a good plan spells out up front.

This is exactly the kind of detail that separates a smooth project from a stressful one — ask your solar company directly how they plan to store and protect your panels during the reroof, and get the answer in writing alongside the rest of the plan.

### **! Don't let this be an afterthought**

Panels sitting around unprotected, even briefly, risk damage. A responsible solar company will have a clear plan for this before the first panel comes off — ask to hear it.

## The wiring side of the job

Removing panels means disconnecting live electrical equipment — exactly why this step belongs to a licensed professional, never a homeowner.

Rooftop solar wiring is energized whenever it's daylight, and safely taking a system apart means shutting it down and disconnecting it the right way, in the right order. It's the same rapid-shutdown safety feature covered in our guide on rapid shutdown and rooftop safety, put to use for a teardown instead of an emergency.

The same care applies in reverse when the panels go back up: reconnecting and testing the system is licensed, professional work, start to finish.

### **! Leave every step of this to licensed hands**

From disconnecting the panels to reconnecting them once the new roof is down, the electrical side of this project is licensed work throughout. Never attempt to disconnect or handle rooftop solar wiring yourself.

## Why the scheduling takes real coordination

This kind of project has to line up two different companies, two different skill sets, and often two different calendars.

### Two calendars, one sequence

Your roofer's crew and your solar company's crew both need windows in their schedule that fit together in the right order — panels off, roof done, panels back on.

### Weather adds a variable

Ohio weather adds its own scheduling pressure on top of that. It's reasonable to ask both companies for a realistic timeline before work begins, and to understand which parts might shift if weather gets in the way.

#### ✓ Ask who's the point of contact

With two companies involved, it helps to know up front who's coordinating the overall schedule, so you have one clear person to call with questions instead of guessing.

## The honest cost angle

This adds genuinely extra work on top of an ordinary reroof, and it's fair to expect it to show up on the bill that way.

Removing panels, storing them safely, and reinstalling and resealing them afterward all take real time and skilled labor — on top of the reroofing itself. I won't guess a number here; costs vary by home, by company, and by scope, and the only honest way to know yours is a written, itemized estimate from your roofer and your solar company.

This is exactly why planning ahead matters so much, which we'll get to shortly. A project you saw coming and budgeted for is a very different experience than one that catches you by surprise.

### ★ Ask for it in writing, always

A written, itemized estimate covering both the reroof and the panel work is the only way to compare your options honestly. I'm glad to help you make sense of one. (330) 200-8042.

## Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

This process plays out a little differently depending on the roofs involved — and how many of them you're managing.

### If you live in town or the suburbs

In town or the suburbs, you're usually coordinating one roof and one array, which keeps the logistics relatively contained.

- One roof and one array usually means a single, well-defined project rather than a sprawling one.
- A tighter lot may mean fewer places to stage or store panels on-site during the work — worth asking about early.
- An HOA, if you have one, may have its own notice or approval steps for a reroof — check before scheduling.
- Being close to both your roofer and solar company usually makes scheduling a little easier to line up.

### If you are out in the country on a well

Out in the country, solar may sit on more than one roof — the house and a barn or outbuilding — and each one faces the same question when its own time comes.

- A barn or outbuilding roof under solar faces the same removal and reinstall question as the house roof does eventually.
- More roof area and more buildings can mean more room to stage and protect panels during the work — often an advantage.
- Longer travel for crews to reach a rural property is worth factoring into scheduling conversations.
- If a well pump depends on that roof's power, planning the timing carefully matters even more — see our guide on coordinating your roofer, installer, and electrician.

#### ★ Managing more than one roof?

Juggling a house roof and a barn roof, each on its own clock, is a common rural challenge. I'm glad to help you think through the timing. Call (330) 200-8042.

## The best fix: plan the timing up front

Every part of this project — the coordination, the storage, the added cost — is easier to avoid than to manage. The fix is timing.

If your roof is getting up there in age when you're first considering solar, the simplest, cleanest path is often to reroof first, then install solar on the new roof. You sidestep the whole situation, and your panels go up on roofing with a long runway ahead of it.

This single planning decision — matching your roof's remaining life to the decades-long system you're about to add — is one of the most valuable conversations you can have before signing anything.

### ✓ A question worth asking early

'Given my roof's age, would you recommend reroofing before we install solar?' A good installer will answer that honestly, even though it may mean a bigger project up front.

## Judging your roof's remaining life

You don't have to become a roofing expert to have this conversation — you just need an honest opinion from someone qualified.

A roofer can give you a realistic read on how much good life your current roof has left, based on its material, its condition, and its history — not a guess, an actual assessment. That read, whatever it turns out to be, is the key input for the reroof-first decision.

Our guide on roof age and condition goes into this in more depth, including how a roof's remaining life and solar's own long lifespan fit together. It's worth reading before you talk to anyone about a quote.

### ★ I can help you ask the right questions

Getting a straight answer about your roof's remaining life, from someone with no stake in whether you go solar, is exactly the kind of homework I help with. (330) 200-8042.

## Check your roof warranty before the first hole is drilled

Your roof warranty matters just as much before solar goes on as it does when it's time for this kind of project years later.

Roofing materials often carry a manufacturer warranty, and your roofer may offer a workmanship warranty too. Understanding what's covered, and what an installer's penetrations could affect, is worth doing before solar goes up in the first place — not after a problem appears.

Our roof-warranty guide walks through this in detail. If you're reading this guide because your roof already has solar and now needs replacing, it's worth pulling out that paperwork again before work starts, so everyone understands what's protected.

### **! Don't assume it's still intact**

Whether your roof warranty stays intact through a reroof depends on who does the work and how it's documented. Ask both your roofer and your solar company directly, and get the answer in writing.

## If you're weighing solar and your roof is on the older side

This is one of the most common situations I help people think through — and it has a genuinely simple answer.

If your roof is nearing the end of its useful life, seriously consider reroofing before solar rather than after. It may feel like a bigger project to take on all at once, but it means your new roof and your new solar system start their working lives together, with nothing looming in the near future.

It's also a good moment to ask your roofer and your prospective solar installer to talk to each other, even before either job is scheduled — coordinating early avoids surprises on both ends.

### ✓ It's a fair question for any installer

A trustworthy solar installer won't mind you asking about your roof's age up front — it's a sign you're thinking about this the right way.

## If you already have solar and just learned you need a new roof

If this is you, take a breath — this is a well-understood situation with a clear path forward, even if it wasn't the plan.

Start by calling your solar company to talk through removing and reinstalling your panels, and your roofer to talk through the reroofing itself. Ask each how they typically coordinate with the other, and whether they've handled this kind of joint project before.

Get a written plan and a written, itemized estimate that covers both sides of the job, including panel storage and the reseal of every attachment once the new roof is down. That paperwork is your best protection for a smooth result.

### ★ You don't have to coordinate this alone

Making sense of two companies, two schedules, and two estimates is exactly where I can help, with no stake in either sale. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

## Protecting your roof warranty during the work itself

The same warranty questions from before solar apply again here, at the reroofing stage.

When your roofer redoes the roof and your solar company reinstalls the panels, get clear, written answers about how the new roofing's warranty is affected by the fresh penetrations, and how the reinstall itself is warranted. Two different companies touching the same roof makes clear paperwork even more important than usual.

This is not a step to skip in the interest of moving quickly. A rushed job with no paperwork is exactly the kind of thing that turns into a dispute later if a leak or an issue shows up.

### **! Get it in writing before work starts, not after**

Once the roof is closed back up, it's much harder to sort out who's responsible for what. Settle the warranty questions with both companies before anyone gets on the roof.

## What a good remove-and-reinstall job looks like

A handful of signs suggest this kind of project is being handled the right way.

- **A single, written plan.** Both companies agreeing on scope, sequence, and responsibility before work starts, not figuring it out as they go.
- **A real storage plan for the panels.** A specific answer for where they'll be kept and how they'll be protected, not a vague one.
- **Careful resealing.** Every attachment redone with proper flashing when the panels go back up — the same standard as a first-time install.
- **Permits handled again.** Reroofing and reinstalling solar both typically involve their own permits and inspections — ask who's pulling them.
- **Clear paperwork at the end.** Updated warranty information for both the roof and the reinstalled system, handed to you without having to chase it.

### ✓ Trust the paperwork

As with any roof-mounted solar work, the proof it was done right is in the permits, inspections, and warranties you're handed at the end — not just how tidy things look.

## Questions worth asking both companies

A short list to bring to the conversation, whether you're planning ahead or already facing this situation.

### **Q: How do you two typically coordinate a project like this?**

You want to hear a clear, practiced answer — not the sound of two companies figuring it out for the first time on your roof.

### **Q: Where will my panels be stored, and how will they be protected?**

A specific, confident answer here is a good sign; a vague one is worth pressing on.

### **Q: Will the reinstalled panels be resealed to the same standard as a new install?**

The answer should be an unqualified yes, including proper flashing at every attachment.

### **Q: Will this affect my roof or system warranties, and can I get that in writing?**

Get specifics from both companies before work begins, not a general reassurance.

#### **★ Bring your notes to me**

If you come away from those conversations with more questions than answers, that's a perfectly good reason to call. (330) 200-8042.

## A quick word on timing and Ohio weather

Reroofing work, with or without panels involved, is weather-dependent — worth building into your expectations.

Both your roofer and your solar company will want a stretch of reasonable weather to work in, which can affect how quickly a job gets scheduled and completed, especially if it's arranged in a hurry. Building in some flexibility, rather than expecting an exact date, makes the process less stressful.

This is one more reason planning ahead — reroofing before solar goes on, if your roof is already aging — tends to go more smoothly than reacting to a surprise. You get to pick the season; a leak or a failing roof does not.

### ✓ Ask about their weather plan

It's reasonable to ask either company how they typically handle a weather delay mid-project, so you know what to expect if the forecast doesn't cooperate.

## Common Questions

The questions about reroofing with solar already installed that I hear most often, answered plainly.

### **Q: Do I have to take my panels off to get a new roof?**

If your roof needs full replacement underneath them, yes — they need to come off so the roofer can do the work, then go back on afterward.

### **Q: Can my roofer do the whole job alone?**

Not the panel removal and reinstall — that's your solar company's or a licensed electrician's work. The two companies coordinate, each handling their part.

### **Q: Is removing and reinstalling my panels expensive?**

It does add real cost on top of an ordinary reroof, though I can't quote a number — get written, itemized estimates from both companies to see your actual cost.

### **Q: Can I avoid this altogether?**

Often, yes — by reroofing before solar goes on if your roof is already getting older. That's the single best way to sidestep the whole situation.

### **Q: What happens to my system's warranty during the process?**

That depends on your solar company and how the work is documented — ask for it in writing before the panels come off.

### **Q: How long does a project like this take?**

It varies by home, by scope, and by weather — both companies involved can give you a realistic estimate for your specific project.

### **★ Still have a question I didn't cover?**

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and ask — there's no such thing as a silly question about your own home.

## Bringing it all together

This sounds intimidating from the outside, but it's really just a well-coordinated, two-company project with a clear sequence.

Panels come off, carefully and by licensed hands; the roof gets redone; the panels go back on and every attachment gets resealed. It adds cost and scheduling, and someone has to store and protect your panels in between — all things a good written plan accounts for up front.

The very best move, if you have any say in the timing, is to avoid the situation altogether: match your roof's remaining life to the decades-long system you're about to add, and reroof first if your roof is already getting on in years.

### ★ Let's think through your timing together

Whether you're planning a first solar install or facing a surprise reroof with panels already up, I'm glad to be your patient, no-pressure sounding board. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

## You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made planning around a reroof when solar panels are already installed feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

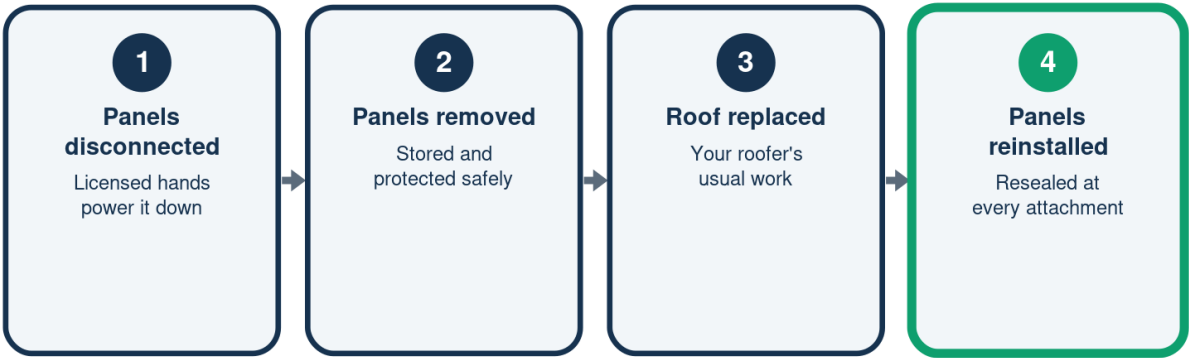
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't climb on roofs or do the licensed solar, roofing, or electrical work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy, properly credentialed local pro.

### ★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

## The Remove-and-Reinstall Journey

From disconnecting the panels to sealing them back down



Two companies, one careful sequence, done in the right order.

## Who's Involved, Step by Step

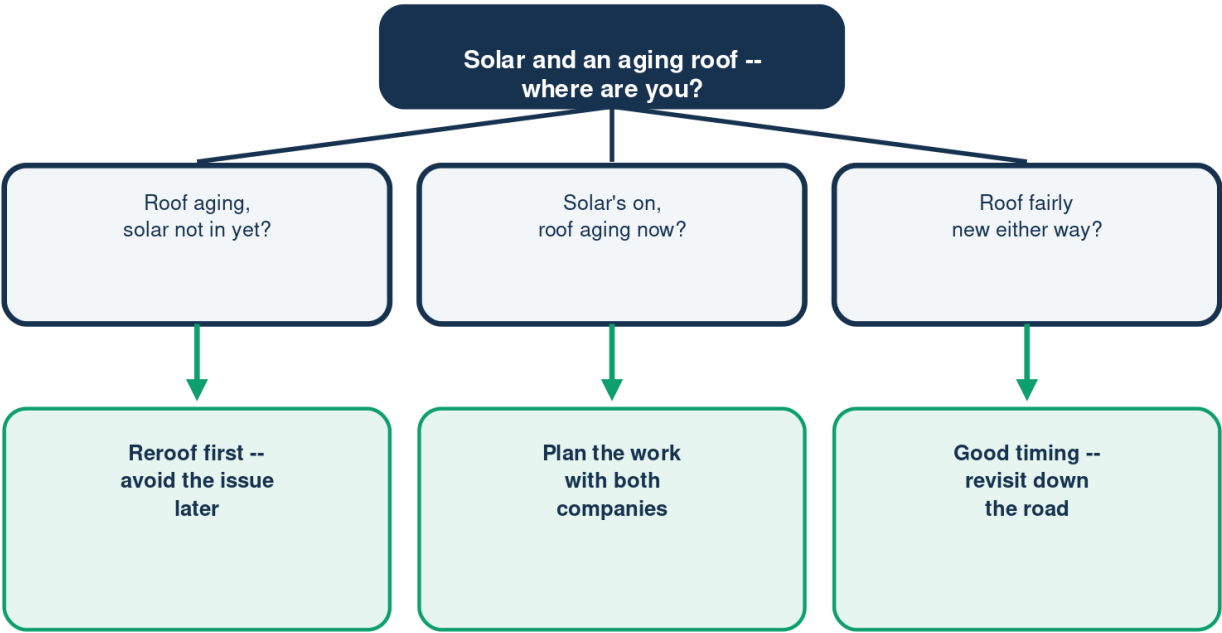
A project that takes more than one company to do right

| Who's typically involved   |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Disconnecting the wiring   | Licensed electrician |
| Removing the panels        | Solar company        |
| Replacing the roof         | Your roofer          |
| Reinstalling and resealing | Solar company        |

Two companies, working from one shared plan.

# Ready, or Facing a Reroof?

A quick gut-check on timing, wherever you are right now



Your roofer and solar company can help you judge timing honestly.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.

## Plan Ahead vs. Pay Later

Why timing your reroof is the simplest fix of all

|                | Reroof first        | Redo it later            |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Timing         | Before panels go up | After they're already on |
| Coordination   | Just the roofer     | Roofer and solar company |
| Panel handling | None needed         | Removed and stored       |
| Hassle         | Lower               | Higher                   |

Planning your roof's timing up front is the simplest way to avoid the extra work.



## Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.  
You just have to remember you can call.  
Friendly, in-home tech help -- I come to you.

### BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will make it right -- or refund it. No awkwardness, no fine print. That is how I would want to be treated.

**(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com**

Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

— Bill

---

### Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



## A Note From Bill

### A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



Book a visit —  
[billshometech.com/book](https://billshometech.com/book)

Use of these guides is subject to our Terms of Use ([billshometech.com/terms-of-use](https://billshometech.com/terms-of-use)).

**(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com**

Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

For general information only — not professional advice. Use at your own risk. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech