

# County of Bamberg



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## Residential Solar Panel Installation

Work shall be installed in accordance with the approved construction documents, and any changes made during construction that are not in compliance with the approved construction documents shall be resubmitted for approval as an amended set of construction documents as required by Bamberg County Ordinance #4-14-1.

This set of submitted plans, specifications, and attachments must be on site at the time of inspections as required by County Ordinance #4-14-1.

Solar panels shall be installed in compliance with code sections 324.7 of the 2015 IRC. Proper clearances and pathways must be maintained per code.

**R324.7 Access and pathways.** Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements shall be provided in accordance with Sections R324.7.1 through R324.7.2.5.

### Exceptions:

1. Detached garages and accessory structures to one and two-family *dwelling*s and *townhouses*, such as parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises and similar structures.
2. Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements need not be provided where an alternative ventilation method *approved* by the code official has been provided or where the code official has determined that vertical ventilation techniques will not be employed.

**R324.7.1 Roof access points.** Roof access points shall be located in areas that do not require the placement of ground ladders over openings such as windows or doors, and located at strong points of building construction in locations where the access point does not conflict with overhead obstructions such as tree limbs, wires or signs.

**R324.7.2 Solar photovoltaic systems.** Solar photovoltaic systems shall comply with Sections R324.7.2.1 through R324.7.2.5.

**R324.7.2.1 Size of solar photovoltaic array.** Each photovoltaic array shall be limited to 150 feet by 150 feet (45 720 by 45 720 mm). Multiple arrays shall be separated by a clear access pathway not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width.

**R324.7.2.2 Hip roof layouts.** Panels and modules installed on *dwelling*s with hip roof layouts shall be located in a manner that provides a clear access pathway not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels

and modules are located. The access pathway shall be located at a structurally strong location on the building capable of supporting the live load of fire fighters accessing the roof.

**Exception:** These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.

**R324.7.2.3 Single ridge roofs.** Panels and modules installed on *dwelling*s with a single ridge shall be located in a manner that provides two, 3-footwide (914 mm) access pathways from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels or modules are located.

**Exception:** This requirement shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.

**R324.7.2.4 Roofs with hips and valleys.** Panels and modules installed on *dwelling*s with roof hips or valleys shall not be located less than 18 inches (457 mm) from a hip or valley where panels or modules are to be placed on both sides of a hip or valley. Where panels are to be located on one side only of a hip or valley that is of equal length, the 18-inch (457 mm) clearance does not apply.

**Exception:** These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.

**R324.7.2.5 Allowance for smoke ventilation operations.** Panels and modules installed on *dwelling*s shall not be located less than 3 feet (914 mm) below the roof ridge to allow for fire department smoke ventilation operations.

**Exception:** Where an alternative ventilation method approved by the code official has been provided or where the code official has determined that vertical ventilation techniques will not be employed, clearance from the roof ridge is not required.

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By signing, applicant ensures that the structure has been reviewed and approved by a licensed engineer to accept submitted design. Panels have been designed to withstand wind loads and seismic activity. An electrical riser diagram and manufacturer's fastening paperwork has been provided. An accurate estimate of work to be performed is included in documentation.

**Project Location:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Received/Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*A plan review was not performed by Bamberg County for compliance with applicable minimal local standards and assumes no responsibility for completeness or accuracy of plans. All work is subject to field inspections and Bamberg County reserves the right to require correction of violations of applicable codes and ordinances observed during field inspections, regardless of whether such violations were noted on plans and/or other documentation.*