

GROUND MOUNT SOLAR WIRING PROTECTION

Per California Electrical Code section 690.31(A), “where PV source and output circuits operating at maximum system voltages greater than 30 volts are installed in readily accessible locations, circuit conductors shall be guarded or installed in raceway.”

The purpose of the guarding requirement is to prevent damage to the PV circuit conductors.

Guarding of the PV circuits can be accomplished in several different ways. The items listed below are suggestions of how to comply with the guarding requirement, these items are not a complete list of ways to accomplish the guarding.

- Any type of fencing that cannot be climbed through or over that encompasses the perimeter of the array. The fencing can be attached to the mounting poles of the ground mount. The fencing can be wood, chain link, heavy duty mesh fencing, hog wire, or similar types of products.
- Any type of commercially available scrim or similar type of material, metal barrier, metal mesh, or similar product that encloses the direct underside of the array preventing the PV wire from being damaged.
- The PV wire can be completely enclosed within a raceway.
- Other approved methods of guarding.

If any part of an array is less than 6’7” above grade, the wiring will be required to be guarded. If all parts of an array exceed 6’7” above grade, no guarding will be necessary.

