



Bubbling Springs Solar

Maintenance Guidelines

Handling of Collectors

- Lifting of the collector should always be performed by two or more people.
- Never lift the collector by the header pipes. The collector must be lifted by the perimeter frame.
- The collector should be supported evenly to avoid excessive torque or twisting.
- Care must be taken to avoid damage to the relatively thin sheet aluminum backing.
- Do not rest or drag the collector over sharp or protruding objects.

Storage

- The collectors should be stored lying flat and supported evenly at all four corners.
- The collectors should be off the ground and out of harm's way.
- If collectors are to be stacked, they should sit squarely on each other and be separated by foam blocks.
 - The weight should be transferred from frame to frame as the collectors are stacked.
- Header pipes should be sealed to prevent entry of foreign matter.
- Collectors may also be stored standing on edge provided that a few basic rules are followed:
 - Bottom of the collectors are resting on wood or foam blocks at or near corners
 - No weight is supported by header pipes
 - Collectors are leaning on a strong uniform surface and set at enough of an angle to prevent them from tipping over.
 - Foam blocks or similar spacers are placed between collectors.

Maintenance

- The heat transfer fluid should be checked at least once a year for proper pH.
 - 7.5 or above is acceptable.
- While rain usually keeps solar collectors clean, it may be necessary to periodically clean the exterior surface of the collector glass.
- Clean solar glass as if it were a window.
 - Avoid methods that could scratch glass.
 - For best results, do not clean surface of glass while collector is hot.

Damaged Panels

- In the case of broken solar collector glass, protect the absorber by placing a sheet of ½ inch thick plywood over the opening until repairs can be made.