



# City of McCall

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

[www.mccall.id.us](http://www.mccall.id.us)

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McCall, Idaho 83638

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## Solar (PV) System Permitting Information

The pre-submittal checklist below contains the minimum information and project plan details required to be submitted to the City of McCall when applying for a permit to install a residential and commercial/non-residential solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The intent of using the checklist is to provide transparent and well-defined information to minimize the number of required revisions, improve permit application quality, and accelerate the application and review process.

### Codes and Design Criteria

The City of McCall has adopted the following applicable codes:

- (A) International Building Code.
- (B) International Residential Code, including Appendix R Tiny Homes.
- (C) International Energy Conservation Code.
- (D) National Electrical Code.
- (E) International Fire Code.

(Ord. 773, 12-12-2002, eff. 1-1-2003; amd. Ord. 929, 12-4-2014, eff. 1-1-2015; Ord. 988, 4-23-2020)

The following local design criteria should be used:

[MCC Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 080 & MCC Title 3, Planning & Zoning](#)

### Required Permits

A permit must be obtained prior to the start of any work. Complete the following permit application form(s) and submit any additional required documents.

#### All Solar PV Systems (Residential, non-Residential, Commercial):

- McCall Solar Permit Application
  - \*\*Electrical Permit (Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses, IBOL) (Separate Agency)\*\**

### Checklist of Required Documents

- Solar Permit Application – [APPLICATION PORTAL LINK](#)

*(for new builds, include Solar Application with your Building Permit Application)*

Upload in application portal:

- Roof plan**

- Plans drawn to scale (¼ inch = 1 foot typical). Include exact location of panels on the roof and show minimum required fire-fighter access clearances from roof edges and peak per Residential Photovoltaic Panels & Modules Guide.

- **One-line electrical diagram** depicting location of equipment, voltage and current ratings, wire size, disconnect rating, overcurrent protection ratings.

**Structural calculations**

- stamped and signed by an **Idaho Licensed Engineer** evaluating the existing roof structure adequacy for local design loads and the loads of the proposed solar equipment

**Note:** *Any plan sheets with engineered design components are required to be stamped and signed by the design engineer.*

**Manufacturer specifications** for photovoltaic panels, inverters, racking, and other equipment. Specifications need to show equipment as labeled in accordance with the appropriate UL listing. (i.e. UL 1703 for panes, UL 1741 for inverters, etc.)

### **Permit Fees**

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems are subject to Building Permits Fees and Review that are calculated based on the industry standard project cost. A calculated estimation of building permit fee application can be found at the [FEE CALCULATOR Link](#) on the [City of McCall Building Application Page](#)

### **Review Process Timeline**

The Building Department is committed to providing a timely review of solar PV permit applications. Best efforts are made to review completed residential solar permit applications within 14-21 days and commercial/non-residential solar permit applications within 14-21 days. These turnaround times are typical, not guaranteed. The City of McCall has a staff of dedicated individuals, but workloads, vacations, and sick leave can cause unforeseen delays that may impact turnaround time.

Certain circumstances can prolong the permit turnaround time including:

- Applicant does not submit all required information
- Contractor applying for permit is not a licensed contractor
- Equipment is not listed

### **Permit Status**

To check your permit status please go to the [application portal](#) to search for existing permits and their status.

### **Permit Expiration**

All permits expire six (6) months after date of issue. Failure to start the work authorized by a permit within this six-month period renders the permit invalid and a new permit must be obtained. Once work begins, noticeable progress must continue until completion. All work must be complete within eighteen (18) months of a permit issue date.

### **Scheduling an Inspection and the Inspection Process**

To schedule an inspection please call 208-634-8648 or schedule through the online portal.

### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

- Office Phone Number: 208-634-7052 or Permitting Technician: [rsantiago-govier@mccall.id.us](mailto:rsantiago-govier@mccall.id.us)



## Residential Photovoltaic Panels & Modules Guide

### What are photovoltaic panels & modules?

Photovoltaic Panels & Modules are commonly referred to as “solar panels”. These panels convert solar energy into direct current electricity.

Although most of us recognize the larger panels; modules can come in all shapes and sizes. For instance: modules are being used that take the place of regular shingles. These modules comply as a roof covering as well as harnessing the energy from our largest renewable resource – the sun.

### Why is a Building Permit required to install photovoltaic panels & modules?

The requirement for a Building Permit boils down to one reason...Safety! These panels and the wires connected route “live” power from one point to another. If done correctly the risk to residents and fire fighters are minimal. If done incorrectly fire fighters trying to vent a roof during a fire and homeowners conducting routine maintenance are in danger of electrocution or worse.

**What are the requirements for photovoltaic panels & modules?** Panels & modules are required to be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1703.

12/2021

Panels are required to be securely attached to the roof with approved mounting devices.

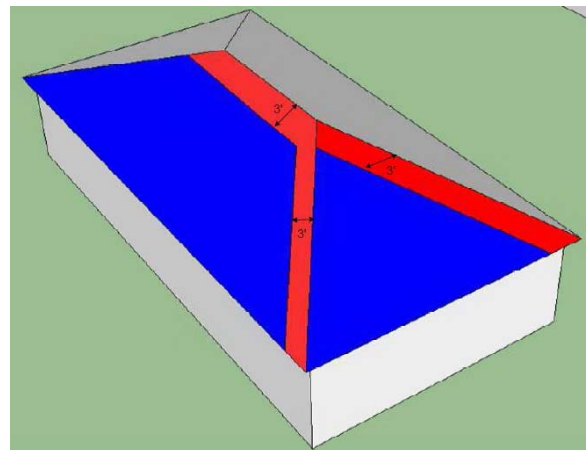
Panels and modules must be located in approved locations based on type of roof and the International Fire Code (IFC).

Panels and modules must be installed by the homeowner or a certified contractor (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners or equivalent).

Idaho code requires a licensed Electrical Journeyman to complete the installation beyond the converter box / AC combiner box, unless exempt by section 54-1016 of Idaho Code.

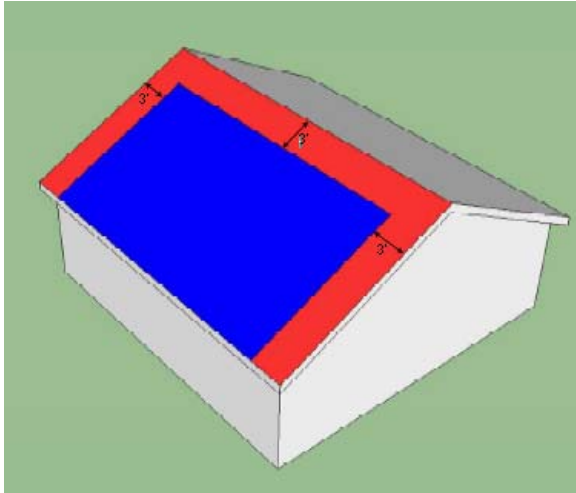
### What is the approved roof locations based on the Fire Code?

- Hip Roofs - 3-foot-wide (914 mm) clear access pathway from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels/modules are located.

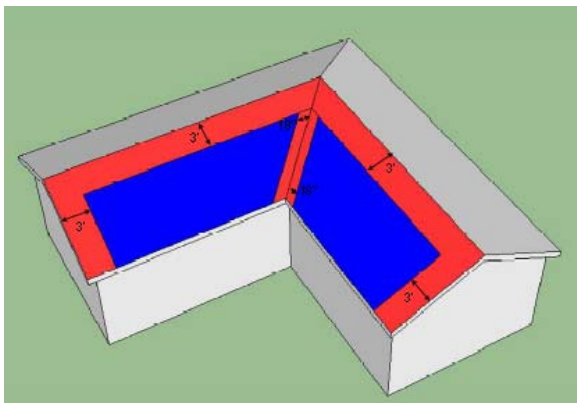




- **Single Ridge** - Provide two, 3-foot-wide (914 mm) access pathways from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels/modules are located.



- **Hip and Valley** - No closer than 18 inches (457 mm) to a hip or a valley where panels/modules are to be placed on both sides of a hip or valley. Where panels are to be located on only one side of a hip or valley that is of equal length, the panels shall be permitted to be placed directly adjacent to the hip or valley.



If the prescriptive clearances noted are not conducive to your particular roof, specific approvals can be given on a case by case basis to reduce those clearances if access is provided elsewhere.

### **How do I get a Building Permit to install photovoltaic panels & modules?**

Print a copy of the “*Photovoltaic Systems Submittal Checklist*” and Accessory Structure Building Permit Application. The checklist will advise you on what plans and documents are required to submit.

### **What inspections are needed for the installation of photovoltaic panels & modules?**

A two stage electrical inspection process is required. A rough-in and a final inspection shall be completed.

At rough-in, inspector will be verifying:

- Grounding
- Listing of all components

At final, inspector will be verifying:

- Wiring methods of your unique system
- Labeling (specifically at your shut-off)
- Verify working clearances
- Verify venting (for battery storage)

A final Building inspection is required to verify panel installation and locations.

A final Planning and Zoning inspection is required only if in a Historic District.