

Please find below reasoning as to why this document has been included.

Solar PV modules are specifically designed to absorb as much incident sunlight as possible and convert it into electrical energy. Reflection of sunlight is therefore undesirable from a performance perspective, and modern modules incorporate low-reflectance solar glass and anti-reflective surface treatments to maximise light transmission into the solar cells.

The supporting SunPower technical note on solar module glare and reflectance explains that solar glass produces substantially less glare and reflectance than standard window glass and other common reflective surfaces. The document attributes this to the use of high-transmission, low-iron solar glass, anti-reflective coatings and surface treatments designed to transmit light rather than reflect it. The comparative data within the document shows solar glass with anti-reflective coating having considerably lower reflected energy than standard glass across a range of incident angles.

It should also be noted that the supporting technical document was originally prepared in 2009. The modules proposed for this development are modern, high-efficiency, all-black modules manufactured considerably later than those considered when the document was produced. Modern module design has continued to prioritise improved light absorption and reduced optical losses. Consequently, while the attached document should be regarded as a general technical reference rather than a product-specific test report, the proposed modules would reasonably be expected to exhibit reflectivity no greater than the modules considered within the document, and potentially lower.

The proposed modules will also be installed parallel to the existing roof plane rather than being mounted at an independent or elevated angle. They will therefore follow the established orientation and pitch of the roof and will not introduce a new, separately orientated reflective plane.

Solar Module Glare and Reflectance Technical Memo



Technical Notification

TITLE: SunPower Solar Module Glare and Reflectance**AUTHORS:** Technical Support**APPLICATION:** Residential/ Commercial**SCOPE:** SunPower Modules**SUMMARY:**

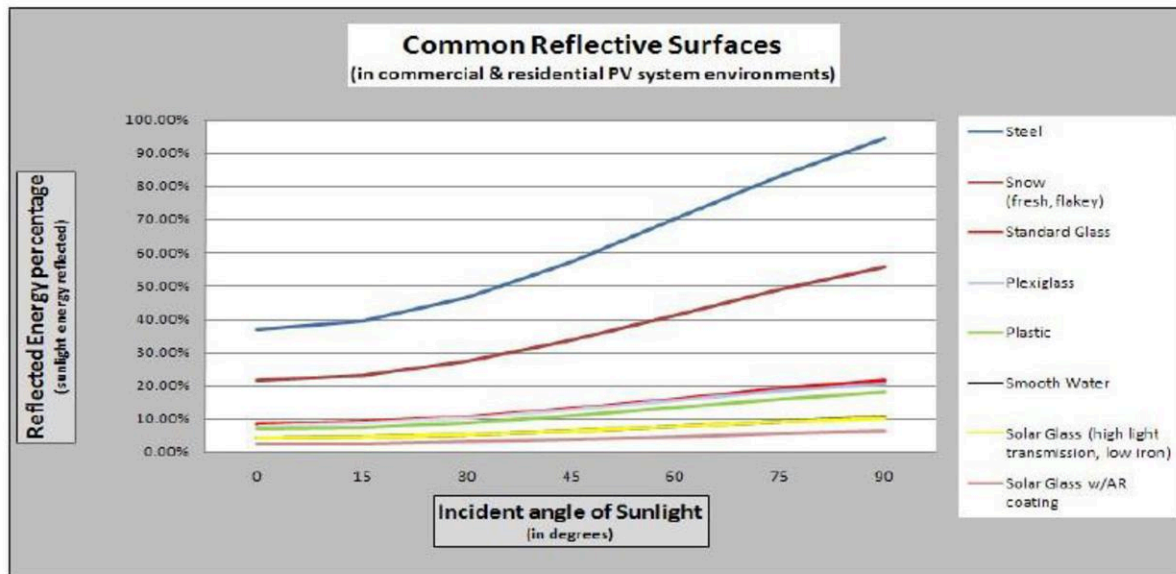
The objective of this document is to increase awareness concerning the possible glare and reflectance impact of PV Systems on their surrounding environment.

The glare and reflectance levels from a given PV system are decisively lower than the glare and reflectance generated by the standard glass and other common reflective surfaces in the environments surrounding the given PV system. Concerning random glare and reflectance observed from the air: SunPower has several large projects installed near airports or on air force bases. Each of these large projects has passed FAA or Air Force standards and all projects have been determined as "No Hazard to Air Navigation". Although the possible glare and reflectance from PV systems are at safe levels and are usually decisively lower than other standard residential and commercial reflective surfaces, SunPower suggests that customers and installers discuss any possible concerns with the neighbors/cohabitants near the planned PV system installation.

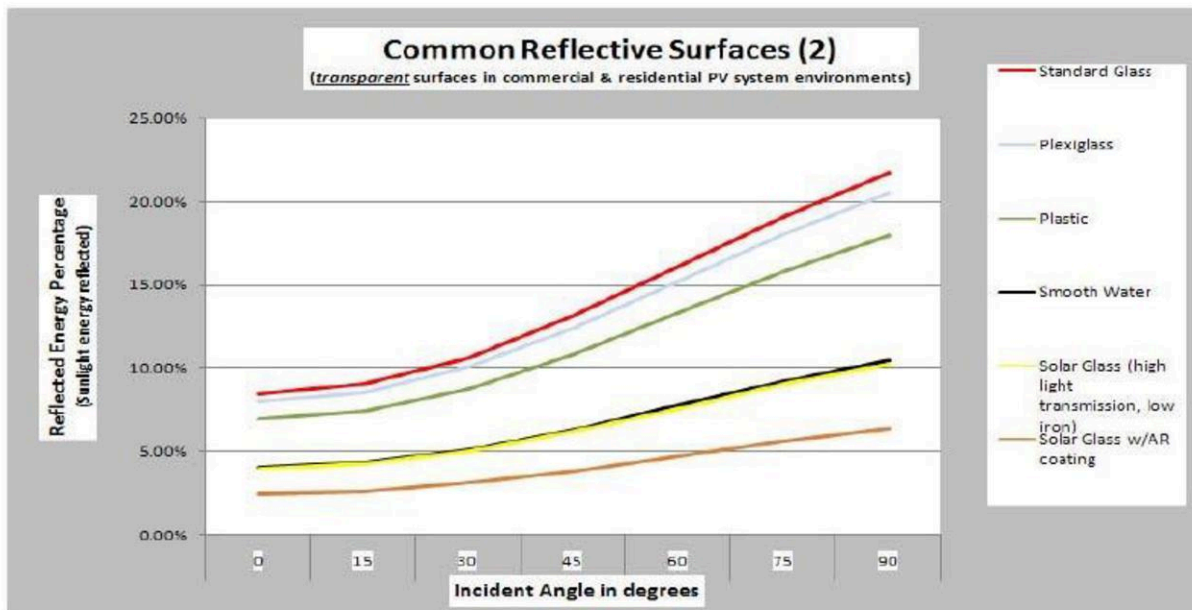
DETAILED EXPLANATION:

In general, since the whole concept of efficient solar power is to absorb as much light as possible while reflecting as little light as possible, standard solar module produces less glare and reflectance than standard window glass. This is pointed out very well in US Patent #6359212 which explains the differences in the refraction and reflection of solar module glass versus standard window glass. Solar modules use "high-transmission, low iron glass" which absorbs more light, producing small amounts of glare and reflectance than normal glass.

In the graph below, we show the reflected energy percentages of sunlight, of some common residential and commercial surfaces. The legend and the graph lists the items from top to bottom in order of the highest percentage of reflected energy.



It should be noted that the reflected energy percentage of Solar Glass is far below that of a standard glass and more on the level of smooth water. Also, below are the ratios of the common reflective surfaces:



Light beam physics resolves that the least amount of light is reflected when the beam is the normal, in other words, least light energy is reflected when the beam is at 0 degrees to the normal. The chart below is a result of light beam physics calculations:

Common Reflective Surfaces (in surrounding environments for PV systems)		Incident angle In degrees						
		0	15	30	45	60	75	90
Material Reflectivity (percent of incident light reflected)	Steel	36.73%	39.22%	46.34%	57.11%	70.02%	83.15%	94.40%
	Snow (fresh, flakey)	21.63%	23.09%	27.29%	33.63%	41.23%	48.96%	55.59%
	Standard Glass	8.44%	9.01%	10.65%	13.12%	16.09%	19.10%	21.69%
	Plexiglass	8.00%	8.54%	10.09%	12.44%	15.25%	18.11%	20.56%
	Plastic	6.99%	7.46%	8.82%	10.87%	13.33%	15.83%	17.97%
	Smooth Water	4.07%	4.35%	5.14%	6.33%	7.76%	9.22%	10.47%
	Solar Glass (high light transmission, low iron)	3.99%	4.26%	5.03%	6.20%	7.61%	9.03%	10.26%
	Solar Glass w/AR coating	2.47%	2.64%	3.12%	3.84%	4.71%	5.59%	6.35%

(Note: Index of refraction values may vary slightly depending on suppliers and reference documentation. The values for the above calculations are averages or single values obtained from the list of references for this document).

Important reference – “Stipples glass”: In addition to the superior refractive/reflective properties of solar glass versus standard glass, SunPower uses stippled solar glass for our modules. Stippled glass is used with high powered telescopes and powerful beacons and lights. The basic concept behind stippling is for the surfaces of the glass to be textured with small types of indentations. As a result, stippling allows more light energy to be channeled/ transmitted through the glass while diffusing the reflected light energy. This concept is why the reflection of off a SunPower solar module will look hazy and less-defined than the reflection from standard glass, this occurs because the stippled SunPower glass is transmitting a larger percentage of light to the solar cell while breaking up the intensity of the reflected light energy.

SUMMARY/ACTION REQUIRED:

The studies, data and light beam physics behind the charts and graphs prove beyond a reasonable doubt that solar glass has less glare and reflectance than standard glass. The figures also make it clear that the difference is very decisive between solar glass and other common residential/commercial glasses. In addition, not to be lost in the standard light/glass equations and calculations, the SunPower solar glass is stippled and has a very photon-absorbent solar cell attached to the back side, contributing two additional factors which results in even less light energy being reflected.

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