



**DIVISION OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**
Department of Permits and Inspections

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**Memorandum
Residential Rooftop PV System Guide**

To: Licensed Contractors Performing PV System Installations
From: Ashlye Bonomo, Director, Department of Permits and Inspections *AB*
Through: Gary Hessong, Deputy Division Director, Division of Planning and Permitting *GH*.
Date: July 19, 2024
RE: On July 20, 2024, Frederick County will begin enforcing the 2021 IRC and 2023 NEC. This memo is to inform the public of changes to the requirements for Residential Rooftop Solar PV systems.

Applications should be submitted electronically via the citizen portal at
<https://planningandpermitting.frederickcountymd.gov/>

- 1) In addition to the requirements of section 324 of the IRC code, solid fuel (wood burning) chimneys require 36 inches of clear space around them for emergency access and maintenance.
- 2) Pursuant with Maryland Senate Bill 783, effective September 1, 2024, a wildlife barrier that meets industry standards is required for rooftop PV Systems to prevent wildlife intrusion and damage to the PV system and the underlying roof. The wildlife barrier is not required if the customer has waived the installation requirement after being informed of the cost of the barrier and the risks of not installing the wildlife barrier. Indicate whether wildlife barriers are being installed on the plan set.
- 3) Pursuant with Maryland Public Service Commission interconnection requirements, inverters shall meet UL Standard 1741-SB and IEEE 1547-2018. This requirement took effect January 1, 2024.
- 4) The permit plan set shall include a basic site plan identifying the major components and shall show the access pathways and required setbacks. Indicate whether the house has a solid fuel burning chimney and if so, denote the location (see #1). Indicate whether wildlife barrier is being installed (see #2). Indicate if the house has a fire sprinkler system. Indicate total PV array area/total roof surface area and percentage of PV coverage.
- 5) The electrical plans shall include a line diagram showing all major electrical components, series/parallel configurations, wire sizes and grounding. Include cut sheets of all equipment including modules, inverters, micro-inverters, optimizers, etc.
- 6) At final electrical inspection the installer shall provide photos depicting the array support system, wildlife barriers, module data plate, micro-inverter data plate (if applicable), optimizer data plate (if applicable), electrical connections, grounding connections, conduit supports, any wiring in attic spaces, measurements of setbacks from ridge and measurements of access pathways.
- 7) A building permit and an electrical permit are required for the removal of a PV system. Photos are required at the time of inspection to show how the roof penetrations were repaired.
- 8) Non-habitable accessory structures (detached one story garages, sheds, barns, etc.) are not required to comply with access or ridge setback requirements.