

Summary of Access and Pathways for Residential Roof Mounted Solar Panels:

IRC Section 324 Solar Energy Systems, Chapter 170 Construction Codes

Design - Residential panels/modules shall be designed so that each photovoltaic array is no greater than 150 feet (45,720mm) in either axis. All pathways shall be over areas capable of supporting the live load of fire fighters accessing the roof and free of skylights, satellite dish's, ventilation hatches or other obstructions that would block the pathway. Relocating of any ventilation pipes or plumbing vents shall be installed in accordance with the plumbing code.

Residential buildings with a single ridge - Panels/modules shall be located in a matter that provides two 3-foot-wide access pathways from the eave to the ridge (one at each end of the roof) or one 3-foot-wide (914mm) access pathway from the eave to the ridge in the center third section of the roof. Panels shall not be installed to less than 18-inches (457 mm) of the roof ridge on both sides. See page 2 for examples of approved layouts. Roofs with unique configurations will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Roof access points - Roof access points located in the center third of the roof shall be located in areas that do not require the placement of ground ladders over openings such as windows or doors. All access points shall be located at strong points of the building and in locations where the access point does not conflict with overhead obstructions such as tree limbs, wires or signs.

Residential buildings with hips and valleys - Panels/modules shall not be installed less than 18-inches (457mm) from a hip or valley where panels/modules are to be placed on both sides of the hip or valley. Panels shall not be installed to less than 18-inches (457mm) of the roof ridge on both sides.

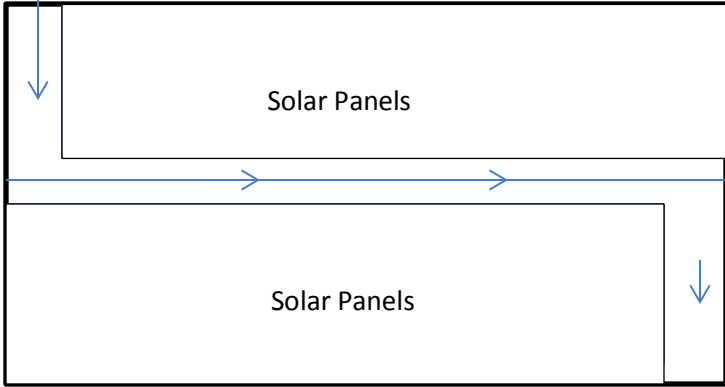
Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings - Panels/modules shall be located in a matter that provides one 3-foot-wide (914mm) access pathway from any required emergency escape and rescue opening to the eave pathway.

Chimney Clearance - Panels/modules shall be installed to provide one 3-foot-wide (914mm) access pathway to and around chimneys.

All edge access pathways 36"

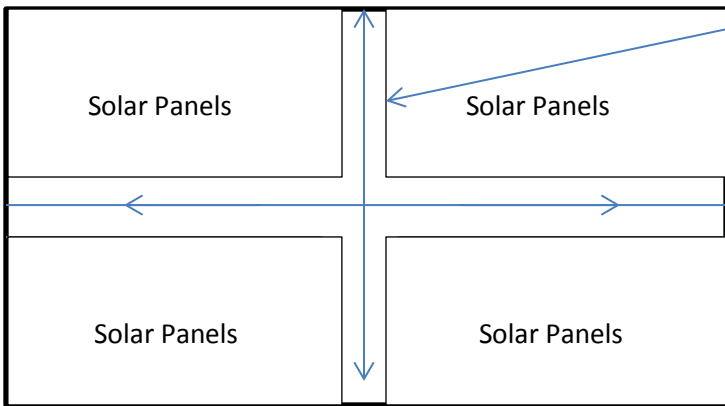
Appendix B

Option #1



Roof ridge (18" each side of ridge)

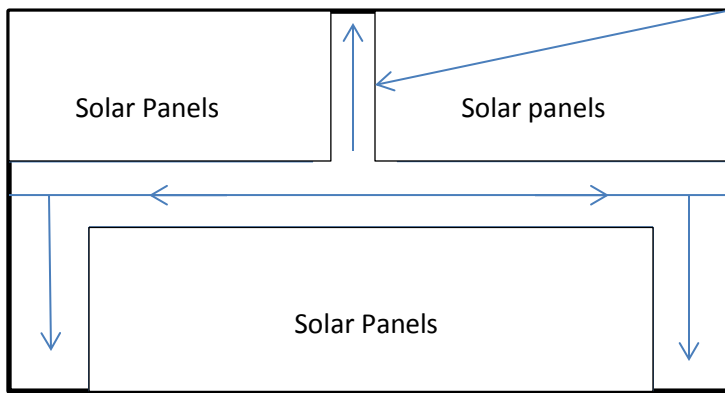
Option #2



All Center pathways 18"

Roof ridge (18" each side of ridge)

Option #3

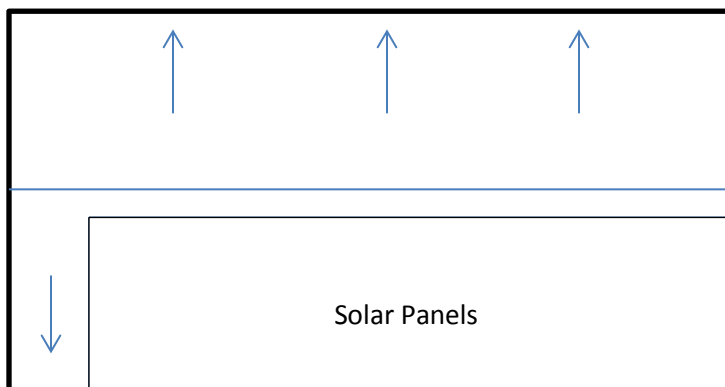


Center pathway 18"

Roof ridge (18" each side of ridge)

Edge pathway

Option #4



Roof ridge (18" each side of ridge)