Solar Panel Handling & Lifting

TRADE: SOLAR & RENEWABLE INSTALLATION | **LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES** | **USE WHAT FITS TODAY**

LEADER NOTE
Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Use today's Solar Panel Handling & Lifting talk as a quick crew check on large panels, wind and lifting strain. Talk through the real conditions, the controls in place and what would make the crew stop and reset the job. Material handling becomes dangerous when the load blocks vision, shifts unexpectedly, exceeds the planned handling method or is stored where it can roll, fall or trap someone. Plan the route, grip, team/lifting aid and final storage before the material starts moving.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS
The crew starts Solar Panel Handling & Lifting with a clear route, then a doorway, stair, delivery, occupied area, or another trade changes the path. The load is already picked up. Where should it be set down, and what route/control should be reset before moving again?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Confirm load weight/shape and select the lifting aid, cart, team size or handling method before moving it.
- Walk the route and remove trip hazards, protect finished surfaces and control doors/traffic.
- Prepare stable storage/landing space before the load leaves its starting point.
- Plan the lift, route and landing area before moving the material, and use mechanical help or a team lift when needed.
- Keep hands and feet out of pinch/crush zones and never place yourself under an unsecured or suspended load.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Plan the lift, route and landing area before moving the material, and use mechanical help or a team lift when needed.
- Keep hands and feet out of pinch/crush zones and never place yourself under an unsecured or suspended load.
- Secure staged material against rolling, sliding, tipping or wind before leaving it unattended.
- Maintain clear communication between workers handling opposite ends or controlling equipment.
- If the setup changes or the control for large panels, wind and lifting strain is not working, stop the job and fix it before continuing.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Starting the move before there is a clear destination and route.
- Handling a load that blocks vision or shifts without enough people or a mechanical aid.
- Stacking material where it can roll, tip, slide or obstruct emergency/access routes.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The load weight, route, center of gravity or handling method is uncertain.
- Storage, racks, cribbing, carts or landing areas are unstable, overloaded or blocked.
- The crew cannot maintain visibility, communication or clear hand/foot placement during the move.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What does this load weigh, where is its center of gravity/awkward side, and what does that mean for the number of people or equipment we need?
2. What route are we using, and where will vision, footing, doors, stairs, traffic, or other workers make the move harder?
3. Who is calling the move, and what lifting aid/cart/team method are we using instead of trying to muscle through a bad position?
4. Where will the material be set down or stored so it cannot roll, tip, slide, blow over, or block access?
5. Where should it be set down, and what route/control should be reset before moving again?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB
Walk the move from pickup to set-down and identify the pinch points and where vision will be blocked.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW
Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: NIOSH Ergonomic Guidelines for Manual Material Handling

LidLog

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Solar Panel Handling & Lifting

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.