

# THE SOLAR READY ROOF



Roof Performance is Critical  
for Solar Installations



**BUILDING VALUE**

# VERSICO'S SOLAR READY ROOF

When investing in a rooftop solar energy system, it's important to make sure that your roof is ready to protect your building for years to come. Installing the right components can help ensure you receive your anticipated return on investment.

## Recommendations for All Roofs

When installing a rooftop solar array, it's easy to get lost in electrical considerations, structural calculations, and placement of panels. However, it's just as important to consider the roof underneath the solar array and the manner in which panels will be anchored or attached to the building. Some important points to think about include:



**Roof warranties and the ability to make repairs**



**Enhancements to the existing roof or when installing a new roof**



**Roof access, foot traffic, and maintenance**



**Solar panel attachment or racking systems**

When a solar energy system is to be installed on a new or existing Versico roof, consider the design recommendations outlined in each of Versico's published roofing system specifications. It is the building owner's responsibility to ensure that the roofing membrane is adequately protected during construction. The last thing you want as a building owner is to have to deal with costly repairs including disconnecting/removing areas of the solar array.

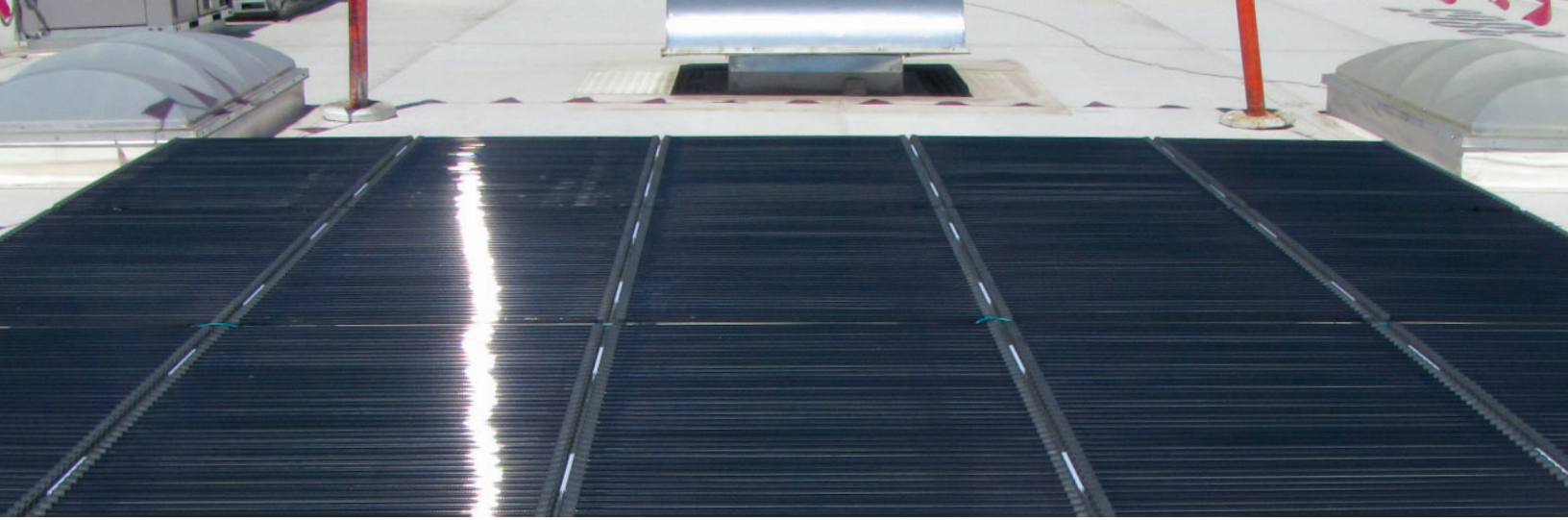
## Recommendations for Existing Roofs

1. A roof assessment should be performed by a Versico Field Service Representative prior to finalizing any upgrades/repairs to the existing roofing system.
2. Rack-supported PV arrays should provide proper clearance to access the roof membrane for maintenance or repairs, if necessary.
3. When penetration of the membrane is required to secure a racking system to the building structure beneath the roof, the use of circular steel tubing will provide the best possible flashing option and facilitate the use of prefabricated accessories.
4. Areas of the roofing membrane which are heavily traveled during array installation and subsequent maintenance should be protected with walkway pads and/or pavers.
5. Photovoltaic laminates should not be directly adhered to a Versico roofing membrane.

NOTE: In such instances, Versico specifications and details should be followed and the flashing performed by an authorized roofing contractor to ensure that the warranty will not be voided.

## Recommendations for New Roofs

1. Versico recommends that roofs expecting an immediate PV system installation and roofs being installed as 'PV ready' should specify the use of an adhered high compressive strength cover board (e.g. DensDeck®, SECUROCK®, or SecurShield® HD) and an adhered membrane.
2. Specify an adhered membrane system equal to or greater than the expected life of the solar energy system.
3. Ballasted solar racking systems should utilize a protection course between the ballast trays of the racking system and the roofing membrane to provide protection and facilitate drainage.



4. Non-penetrating attachment methods that rely solely on a heat-welded seam for anchoring solar panels to a thermoplastic membrane should not be used.

#### **Design Recommendations**

- Specify VersiFleece® membrane with full coverage Flexible DASH™ Adhesive for maximum puncture resistance.
- Specify thicker membrane such as .090 mil EPDM or .080 mil TPO or PVC for longer service life and fewer punctures.
- Specify a rigid cover board attached with urethane adhesive.
- Overlay all seams with coverstrip and use 25- or 30-year Versico system details.
- Install protection layer under any ballasted solar panel racks or support systems.
- Solar panel systems should allow for access to all areas of the roof for maintenance or if repairs are needed.

#### **Cautions & Warnings**

- Consult a structural engineer to avoid overloading or point loading the roof.
- Always ensure that PV systems comply with local building codes.
- Ensure proper attachment and anchoring of PV while protecting the roof.
- Areas designated for staging of roofing or restoration materials and PV array components prior to construction should be protected to prevent damage.
- Maximum distributed, lateral, and point loads should be determined by the building owner or their design professional to avoid exceeding the maximum compressive strength of the roofing assembly.

- Coordination between Versico authorized roofing contractor and PV system installer/electrician is essential to minimize delays, avoid unnecessary rooftop traffic, and avert possible physical damage to the roofing membrane.
- On new or existing membrane installations, attachment of slip sheets, walkway pads, sacrificial sheets, and all necessary flashings/terminations or modifications to the roofing assembly must be performed by a Versico authorized roofing contractor. Failure to comply will result in a loss of the system warranty.
- Walkway pads, protection pads, slip sheets, and sacrificial sheets shall be of the same color as the roofing membrane.
- Versico will not warrant or approve the integrity, installation, or performance of any solar system or solar system component system component.

NOTE: Review Versico specifications for more installation guidelines.

#### **Warranties and Quality Assurance**

For new or existing projects, the Versico roof system warranty will cover deficiencies in Versico-supplied material or labor performed by the Versico authorized contractor within the limits in the warranty.

- Always call Versico before beginning a solar array installation. Versico will perform a roof assessment before solar array installation begins.
- Versico will perform a post-installation inspection to ensure the roof is still in warrantable condition.
- Damages to the roofing system resulting from PV operation or maintenance are beyond the coverage of a new or existing Versico warranty.
- Should the dismantling of panels and/or the removal of modules be required to complete repairs covered by the membrane system warranty, these costs shall be the owner's responsibility and are not covered by the Versico warranty.

# BENEFITS OF ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

## Energy Generation

As solar energy technology has become cheaper and more efficient, it has become a more attractive energy source for many building owners.



## Government Incentives

Building owners can take advantage of government incentives to make installing solar panels on their roof a worthwhile investment.



## Commitment to Sustainability and Renewable Resources

Solar energy is an excellent source of renewable electricity, and installing a rooftop solar array is a perfect way for companies and building owners to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability while using space that is otherwise unused.



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