

Solar panels weigh approximately 18kg each or 10 – 11kg per square metre. All constructed dwellings have been designed to support roof “dead and live loads” (the latter being someone walking on the roof). The increasing trend is to now install a minimum of 20 panels across the roof area and this may have a detrimental effect on your existing roof structure. This additional load may be too much for the existing structures - roof trusses, and subsequently the roof structure could fail, place additional stress on the walls of the building or internal linings.

Prior to having your solar panels installed you will first have to engage a Registered Structural engineer, Civil. Registration can be checked here [www.consumer.vic.gov.au/licensing-and-registration/professional-engineers/public-register](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/licensing-and-registration/professional-engineers/public-register)

Your engineer should undertake a site inspection to determine the existing roof structure in place and the additional loads that will be applied to that roof structure.

He/she will advise if you **must** provide additional strengthening (additional timbers, steel beams etc.) to your roof structure. If this is the case, you **must** apply for and obtain a Building Permit before that work commences. If the roof structure is adequate a Building Permit will not be required to be obtained.

The solar panel installation company may also be able to assist you in obtaining a report and Building Permit.