

You found the perfect solar light and now you are having difficulty getting the light to work properly. Despite the simplicity of the design, they can develop problems or require maintenance. The good news is that most of the problems are easy to troubleshoot and correct. DecksDirect.com has created this trouble shooting guide to assist in the process of determining what may or may not be the problem.

## 1. Is the light panel turned on?

Many solar lights have an On/Off switch. Verify the lighting is turned to the "On" position. To reset the light panel, turn the switch to the "Off" position and return to the "On" position. You need to cover the ENTIRE solar collector to test the unit.

## 2. Are the batteries working?

The most common problem with solar lighting is the batteries that are supplied with the product. Before you received the light, the solar unit and its batteries may have been sitting in a dark box for several months.



Depending upon the amount of light the unit receives upon being installed, it can take up to three weeks for the unit and batteries to cycle to full capacity.

To test if the problem is from the solar unit or from the batteries, temporarily replace the two AA NiCad batteries with two AA alkaline batteries. You need to cover the ENTIRE solar collector to test the unit. If the LED light turns on, the NiCad batteries will either need to be replaced or the unit may need more time under sunlight to charge the batteries to full capacity. ***\*NEVER use alkaline batteries permanently in a solar unit. This will void the manufactures warranty and can cause damage to the light.***

How long should I expect the batteries to last? The batteries supplied in the unit from the manufacture, may only last 6-24 months. New replacement NiCad rechargeable batteries should operate for approximately 1000 cycles (nearly 3 years).

## 3. Are the batteries in the correct direction?

It may seem simple, but product have been known to ship with the batteries installed in the reverse direction. Verify the batteries are installed tightly in the correct direction. Typically, the light panel will have (+) and (-) markings to verify the correct direction for the batteries. Ensure the markings on the battery are aligned with the markings on the solar unit. If no markings are found on the unit, the smooth/flat end of the battery should be placed in contact with the spring of the solar unit. The end of the battery with the "knob" should be placed in contact with smooth/flat clip of the solar unit contact.

## 4. Is the solar panel receiving enough light during the day?

If the solar panel is not receiving enough sunlight, the performance of the unit will be affected. Ensure that the solar panel is in an optimum position to receive the maximum amount of sunlight.

Cloudy days and the time of the year may affect and alter the performance of the unit.

To test if the unit is not receiving enough light, remove the fixture from its current location and temporarily place the unit in the most optimal location for the maximum amount of direct sunlight for 2-3 days.



## 5. Is the fixture in a dark spot at night?

Is the solar unit installed in a location that receives ambient light from another source? If the solar unit is located near another light source (patio/house light, spot light, another fixture, etc.), the unit's photocell will not switch the light on or it may turn on and off sporadically.

If all of the trouble shooting techniques have been exhausted, you may have a defective solar unit. DecksDirect.com will and can handle all warranty claims for you within 30 days of the product being received at the shipping location used when placing the order. Any warranty claims beyond 30 days, should be made directly with the manufacturer of the light. Please refer to the specific manufacturer's warranty policy and claim submission procedures.

## 1. Batteries are defective (within 30 days)

If the batteries are found to be defective within the 30 day period, DecksDirect.com will send replacement batteries at no charge. Please contact at us at 1-888-824-5316 to submit a claim.

## 2. Solar Collector/Photo Cell not functioning (Models with replaceable units, within 30 days)

If the solar collector or photo cell is found to be defective and the fixture is a replaceable unit, DecksDirect.com will send a replacement unit at no charge. Please contact at us at 1-888-824-5316 to submit a claim.

## 3. Defective Fixture (within 30 days)

If the entire fixture is found to be defective and you are within the 30 day warranty period, DecksDirect.com will warranty the product with a replacement at no cost. Please contact at us at 1-888-824-5316 to submit a claim.

### Option 1:

The defective unit will need to be returned to DecksDirect.com prior to a replacement light being sent. A return shipping label will be provided at no charge via e-mail. Prior to a return label being submitted, DecksDirect.com must have a customer's credit card on file. If the fixture is determined to be defective, a replacement will be shipped via Standard Ground service at no charge. If Expedited Shipping is requested, Expedited Shipping fees will be charged.

If the returned fixture is found to be in working condition or the problem is found to be from defective batteries, all shipping charges will be charged to the credit card on file. *Note: Over 75% of solar deck light problems are related to the batteries.*

### Option 2:

If time is critical, a replacement light can be shipped immediately with a return tag in the package. The replacement light and shipping charges will be charged to the customer. When the original fixture is returned and determined to be defective, a full credit for the product and shipping will be applied. If Expedited Shipping is requested, Expedited Shipping fees will be charged and not refunded.



## Aurora Deck Lighting

Manufacturer's Warranty Length: One Year

Contact: 1-800-603-3520

[http://www.decksdirect.com/documentation/Aurora\\_solar\\_lighting.pdf](http://www.decksdirect.com/documentation/Aurora_solar_lighting.pdf)

Replaceable Solar Units

- Polaris Solar Post Cap Light
- all Landscape Lights

Integrated Solar Unit Design

- Pegasus Solar Post Cap Light



## Maine Ornamental, Outdoor Essentials and Deckorators Brand Products

Manufacturer's Warranty Length: One Year

Contact: 1-800-332-5724

<http://www.ufpi.com/literature/deckoratorsmpostcapwarr.pdf>

Replaceable Solar Units

- Solar Tiffany Style Post Cap Lights

- Solar Jade Style Post Cap Lights

Integrated Solar Unit Design

- Low Profile Solar Post Cap Light

- Solar Pathway and Stair Light

- Deckorators Solar Post Cap Light



## Classy Caps

Manufacturer's Warranty Length: Two Years

Contact: customerservice@fencecaps.com

<http://fencecaps.com/warranty.html>

Integrated Solar Unit Design

- Solar Post Cap Light

- Solar Rail Light