



Electric car charging outlet requirements

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No matter what you think about electric cars, car manufacturers have made it clear they're here to stay. But since there's no one standard charger for electric vehicles, it can be confusing for homeowners who want to charge their electric cars at home.

The kind of outlet needed for an electric car depends on your car's model. For example, a Chevrolet Volt uses a 120v outlet, while the Tesla Model S battery needs a 240v outlet. While you can plug an electric car into a household outlet, a higher-voltage outlet will reduce the charging time.

Read on to learn more about electric car charging, the time it takes to fully charge, and the different types of outlets.

Several factors determine how long it takes to charge an electric vehicle. They factor in whether you're talking about fast charging for a little additional range or putting it on the charger overnight.

That means the charging time can vary greatly, even among similar-sized cars.

For example, a Chevy Bolt adds a measly 4 miles of range per charging hour on a 120-volt plug. Similarly, a Tesla Model 3 can take between 7 and 29 hours, depending on how much power your home's circuitry can handle.

Not only do the batteries in electric cars have limits to how much power they can accept, but the charging stations have different power delivery capacities.

For example, a Tesla Model 3 will charge much slower when you plug it into a circuit with a 15 amp breaker than if you would plug it into a plug with a 60 amp breaker.

To make things more complicated, it has a maximum charge rate of 7.7Kw, so even if you plug it into a 60 amp circuit, it can't take advantage of that extra power.

Most manufacturers, like Tesla, will list a theoretical charging time.

However, to figure out your EV's charging time, divide your car's battery pack by the electric vehicle charging station's output rate or a number lower than the vehicle's acceptance rate.

That gives you the number of hours required to charge an empty battery.

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