

Electric car type 2 charger

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Charging infrastructure varies around the world, so depending on where you live, your EV charging unit and how fast you want to charge your electric car, you'll encounter different EV charging connector types. It's important you understand what types are used in your country, so you can keep the right charging cable or adapter in your car at all times.

In this guide we'll give you detailed explanation of the different types of connectors available around the world and where you might find them:

Don't worry if this looks overwhelming, if you live and only drive your electric car in the UK, you'll mostly come across Type 2, CCS2 and CHAdeMO connectors.

EV chargers can be broadly categorised as AC (alternating current) chargers or DC (direct current) chargers and within those categories, you'll find different types of chargers capable of charging your car at different speeds.

Now the difference between AC chargers and DC chargers is simply where the conversion from AC to DC happens. All home EV chargers and most public charge points use an AC power supply and convert the AC supply to DC within the vehicle itself to charge your car. While all rapid and ultra-rapid chargers use DC to charge your car's battery directly.

The exception to this is Tesla, in North America and Japan you'll find a proprietary charging connector for both AC and DC charging.

Each category and type of charger has its own connector as shown in the illustration below.

Type 1 connectors (also known as J1772 connectors) are the primary charging standard for electric vehicles in the USA, Canada and Japan.

They're five-pin connectors that support single-phase charging and offer a maximum power output of 19.2 kW.

They're slowly becoming the preferred choice for EV manufacturers in North America because they allows manufacturers to have a single charging port to support both AC and DC charging. Older EV's typically have different ports for different charging speeds.

Type 2 connectors (also known as Mennekes connectors after the company that made them) are the primary charging socket for electric vehicles in the UK and Europe.

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They're a seven-pin connector and support both single-phase and three-phase AC charging. They have a maximum power output of 22 kW and you'll typically find them on home chargers and fast charging stations in public.

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