Electric vehicle charger selection guide



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Mon-Fri 10am-6pm Eastern

Our comprehensive EV charger buyer's guide examines the key factors and components to consider when selecting an electric vehicle charger for home use. Read on for an in-depth look at charger types, charging speeds, connectors, wiring needs, smart features, installation, and costs to help inform your purchasing decision.

Level 2 EV chargers run on 240V to provide faster charging at 10-20 miles per hour. Most homeowners install Level 2 for more practical daily charging needs. This level can fully charge most EVs in 8-12 hours overnight.

Level 3 DC fast chargers deliver the fastest charging, typically at 40-60 miles in just 20 minutes. However, the high voltage and cost make Level 3 impractical for home use. These ultra-fast charges are primarily used at public stations.

Charging power is measured in kilowatts (kW), which determines charging time. Level 1 provides 1.4-1.9 kW. For Level 2, the two main charging speeds are:

Faster charging is always preferable when possible. But your home's electrical capacity may limit charging speed, especially if using multiple high-draw appliances.

All EVs use standardized connectors to link the charger cable to your vehicle inlet. The main types are:

Your home's electrical system capacity is crucial in determining what charger you can install. Key factors are:

An electrician will assess your electrical system to advise what charging level and speed is supported or if upgrades are warranted.

"Smart" EV chargers connect to wifi or cellular networks to enable remote monitoring, access controls, metering, and scheduling. Key smart features include:

Smart chargers provide convenience and energy optimization. But they cost more than basic chargers without app connectivity or scheduling.

Home EV charger installation includes:

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