

Ready for your new electric vehicle?

Getting a new car is always an exciting time and we're sure you can't wait to get out on the road. Of course, if this is your first electric vehicle (EV) then you've probably got a few questions on preparing for delivery and getting the most out of your new EV.

To make things easier for you, we have put together a list of the most common questions we get asked, together with some hints and tips that will help you along the way.

Charging at home

We've partnered with British Gas to offer a home charge point solution that includes your grant applications, installation and charge point as part of your monthly vehicle rental cost.

If you've opted to include a charge point in your new vehicle order, the British Gas team will take care of things like relevant grant applications and your home suitability assessment, so that you can focus on getting ready for your new EV.

How do home charge points work?

Whether you have a separate charge point and cable, or a combined unit, the basic process is the same. Simply open the charging cap on your car and connect the cable as appropriate. The lights on your charge point will show that charging is underway and indicate when the vehicle is fully charged.

What about cables?

Most dedicated home charge points have either a standard Type 2 socket for your car's charging cable to connect to, or a built-in cable which you can then plug into your car. Thankfully, all new electric vehicles sold in the UK feature Type 2 connectors, and if you opted to include the charge point in your rental, a 5m cable is included, so charging your new car is very much a case of plug and play. Please check your order includes the correct cable for your vehicle and contact us with any questions you might have.

Is home charging safe?

Home charge points are generally wired directly into your fuse board, meaning there's no additional load on any other wiring. They also offer protection against overloading the circuits and are fully weatherproof.

Whilst it's true that it is possible to use a standard three-pin socket, they are not actually designed to handle these loads on a regular basis. As a result, not only will it take twice as long to achieve the same level of charge, you'll also be missing out on important safety features and could see a substantial increase in your energy costs.

Should I change my electricity provider?

Charging at home is certainly cheaper than public charging but your electricity bills are still likely to increase. The key thing to look for is a provider with good off-peak rates, as this is when most drivers recharge their vehicles. Some providers also offer discounted Smart charge points as an incentive to sign up. The main renewable energy electricity providers also offer tariffs including electric vehicle charging incentives, such as a charge point or POLAR membership.

Using Public Charge Points

There is a rapidly growing infrastructure of public charge points at service stations, shopping centres, car parks and roadside locations. An increasing number of employers are also installing charge points for staff to use whilst at work.

Payment for charging your electric car is generally via a service subscription or on a Pay As You Go basis. The schemes are run by a variety of operators and so, depending on your travel patterns, you might need to have more than one account set up.

With this in mind, now would be a good time to download one of the dedicated apps to help you locate charge points along your most frequently travelled routes. And remember, Rapid Chargers operate at approximately four times the speed of Fast Chargers, so it's worth planning ahead if you want to avoid losing too much time.

Public Charge Point Apps for EV Drivers



www.charge.pod-point.com

Operator of charging units often found in shopping centres and car parks



www.ecotricity.co.uk

A major provider of charging units at motorway service stations



Manufacturers

Many car manufacturers have specific apps for their EV drivers offering a variety of services such as vehicle monitoring and route planning



www.polar-network.com

The UK's largest public charging network, owned and operated by BP Chargemaster



www.plugshare.com

Similar to Zap Map but with a worldwide coverage



www.zap-map.com

Comprehensive charging point locator with route planning and advice for EV drivers

Charging Tips

To preserve battery life, follow these top tips:

- 🔌 Plan trips with charging locations in mind and make a note of convenient charge points along regular routes
- 🔌 Try not to regularly let the battery run down too low
- 🔌 Keeping your battery at 50-80% capacity will maintain a higher total driving range in the long-run
- 🔌 Charging the last 20% takes a disproportionate amount of time and is rarely worth it in public locations

A new driving experience

Electric vehicles are great to drive but there are a few differences which might take a little while to get used to. Immediately noticeable is the lack of engine noise, so you'll probably be more aware of sounds coming from the road than you were before. You'll also notice that, with all the power instantly available,

even smaller vehicles pull away effortlessly on every occasion. Although it's worth remembering that accelerating too quickly, or rapid accelerating and breaking, will decrease your range significantly.

Any Questions?

For help getting ready for your EV, contact us on:

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