

First 30 Days EV Owner Launch Checklist

A practical first-month setup sheet: prove your charging routine, finish accounts before you need them, set a tire/safety rhythm, rehearse one public charge, and delay accessories until real use shows the gaps.

Day 1

Keys, app, documents, charge limit, tires.

Week 1

Home charging rhythm and accounts.

Week 2

Low-stress public-charge rehearsal.

Weeks 3–4

Service/admin closeout; buy from evidence.

Day 1 — keys, charging, documents

- ☐ Vehicle app installed; phone key works; backup key/card tested and stored safely.
- ☐ Insurance, registration, roadside assistance, warranty, and service contacts saved.
- ☐ Daily charge limit set from the owner manual/app guidance; home/work saved in nav.
- ☐ Charging cable, adapters, tire inflator, tow hook, and emergency releases located.

Days 2–7 — home charging setup

- ☐ Plug in at your normal parking spot for several nights and record miles/range recovered.
- ☐ If using Level 1, confirm the outlet is grounded, dedicated/in good condition, and no extension cord is used.
- ☐ If planning Level 2, photograph panel + parking route, check permits/rebates, and get two written electrician quotes before buying hardware.
- ☐ For apartment/HOA/street parking, request written permission and define a public/workplace backup charger.

Apps/accounts to finish before you need them

- ☐ Vehicle app: service, roadside, climate/preconditioning, charging schedule, and notifications checked.
- ☐ Primary public fast-charge network account created with payment method and plug/adaptor notes.
- ☐ At least one backup network/app installed for your local corridor; receipts and pricing visible.
- ☐ Utility account checked for EV rate plan, off-peak hours, charger rebate, or managed charging program.

Safety + tire-pressure rhythm

- ☐ Cold tire pressures checked against the driver-door placard/owner manual — not the tire sidewall maximum.
- ☐ Calendar reminder set for monthly tire-pressure checks and before long drives or big temperature swings.
- ☐ No damaged plugs, mystery adapters, hot/loose outlets, cords across walkways, or charging in standing water.
- ☐ Learn jack/tow points, manual door releases, high-voltage warning labels, and when to call roadside instead of DIY.

Cleaning/care basics — buy slowly

- ☐ Microfiber towels, glass cleaner, screen-safe cloth, wipes, and trash bags placed in a small organizer.
- ☐ Floor/cargo protection added only if mud, snow, kids, pets, sports gear, gravel, or messy groceries justify it.
- ☐ Wash routine uses EV-safe common sense: no harsh interior chemicals; keep charge-port and sensors unobstructed.
- ☐ Skip cosmetic trim, novelty lighting, and duplicate organizers until real annoyances show up.

Week 2 — first road-trip rehearsal

- ☐ Plan a short route that includes a charger stop or charging-navigation check while you still have plenty of range.
- ☐ Verify charger status in-app, park so the cable reaches, start/stop a session, and save the receipt.
- ☐ Observe charging speed, cost, restroom/food availability, and the next backup charger on the route.
- ☐ Pack only the small kit: tire inflator, charging cable if applicable, microfiber towel, wipes, trash bag, water/snack.

Weeks 3–4 — service/admin closeout

- ☐ Create a folder for purchase docs, inspection/permit closeout, charger receipts, rebates, tax-credit paperwork, and service invoices.
- ☐ Schedule delivery punch-list or early service items while photos, dates, and symptoms are fresh.
- ☐ Review software updates, recall/service notices, subscription trials, toll transponder/parking permits, and title/plate status.
- ☐ Make a buy/wait/skip list from actual use; return unused accessories before return windows close.

Owner safety rule: use the vehicle manual, charger instructions, local code, utility requirements, and a licensed electrician for electrical work. This checklist is a planning aid, not repair or wiring instructions.

Sources consulted: U.S. DOE Alternative Fuels Data Center pages on home/public EV charging; FuelEconomy.gov EV and tire-pressure maintenance guidance; NFPA electric-vehicle safety information; New EV Owner Kit charging, installation, and first-30-days guide content.