

Home Charging Setup Checklist

Use this before buying a wall charger or calling an electrician. It turns the site's home charging setup tool into a printer-friendly handoff: your routine, parking reality, electrical photos, permit/rebate checks, and quote questions.

Level 1

120V outlet. Often enough for short daily mileage if the outlet is dedicated, grounded, and in good condition.

Level 2

240V circuit or hardwired EVSE. Better for higher daily miles, cold weather, and multi-EV homes.

Safety

Confirm panel capacity, permits, GFCI/weather requirements, and EVSE sizing with a licensed electrician.

Run the quick fit check

Need miles **Plug-in hours** **Parking type**
Panel known?

If Level 1 replenishes your normal day plus a cold-weather/degradation buffer, test it for two normal weeks before paying for Level 2.

Default recommendation

Do not buy hardware first. Gather photos and measurements, check utility rebates, then ask for quotes sized to your actual parking spot and panel.

Before-you-call checklist

- ☐ Count your normal weekday miles and your longest recurring weekly day.
- ☐ Write down how many hours the car can be plugged in overnight.
- ☐ Confirm where the EV parks: garage, driveway, shared lot, or street.
- ☐ Measure the distance from the parking spot to the main panel or likely outlet location.
- ☐ Photograph the main panel label, main breaker size, breaker directory, and any open spaces without touching live parts.
- ☐ Photograph the parking area, wall/ceiling route, weather exposure, and where the charge port will sit.
- ☐ Check whether your city/county requires a permit and inspection for a new 240V circuit or EVSE.
- ☐ Check your utility for EV time-of-use rates, managed charging programs, and charger installation rebates before buying hardware.
- ☐ Decide whether Level 1 covers the week before assuming a Level 2 installation is mandatory.
- ☐ Get two written electrician quotes that state circuit size, EVSE type, permit handling, routing, and inspection closeout.

Fill-in quote notes

DAILY MILES TO
REPLACE

LONGEST WEEKLY DAY

OVERNIGHT PLUG-IN
WINDOW

PARKING LOCATION

PANEL/MAIN BREAKER
SIZE

OPEN BREAKER SPACES

PANEL-TO-CHARGER
DISTANCE

INDOOR/OUTDOOR
EXPOSURE

PREFERRED SETUP

UTILITY/REBATE
NOTES

NOTES / CONSTRAINTS / HOA OR LANDLORD
APPROVAL

NEC-aware caveat: EV charging is treated as a continuous electrical load. A qualified electrician should size the circuit, breaker, conductors, GFCI protection, weatherproofing, and EVSE settings under the electrical code adopted in your jurisdiction.

Choose the scenario that matches your parking reality

Level 1 trial

120V HOUSEHOLD OUTLET • LOWEST COST

Often enough for short commutes when the outlet is dedicated, grounded, in good condition, and the vehicle can remain plugged in overnight. Avoid extension cords and sketchy adapters.

240V outlet + mobile connector

FASTER RECOVERY • FLEXIBLE HARDWARE

Useful when mobility matters, but receptacles need the correct rating, enclosure, GFCI protection where required, and a circuit sized by an electrician.

Hardwired Level 2 EVSE

PERMANENT DAILY SETUP • CLEANEST INSTALL

Best for higher daily mileage, outdoor exposure, two-EV households, or rebate programs that require a listed wall charger and inspection documentation.

Shared or street parking

PERMISSION FIRST • PUBLIC FALLBACK

Start with landlord/HOA/municipal approval and avoid cords across sidewalks or common paths. Keep public or workplace charging as the backup while permission clears.

Questions for the electrician

- ☐ Will you perform a load calculation and confirm panel/service capacity for EV charging as a continuous load?
- ☐ Will this be hardwired EVSE or a receptacle, and why is that the safer choice for this location?
- ☐ What breaker, conductor, conduit, GFCI, weatherproofing, and disconnect requirements apply locally?
- ☐ Will you pull the permit, schedule inspection, label the breaker, and provide closeout documentation?
- ☐ Is the EVSE listed/certified and installed according to the manufacturer instructions and vehicle limits?
- ☐ What lower-amperage or load-management option avoids a service upgrade if the panel is constrained?

Photos to attach

- ☐ Main panel with label and breaker directory visible.
- ☐ Close-up of main breaker/service rating if it is visible without removing covers.
- ☐ Existing outlet near the parking spot, including cover and condition.
- ☐ Parking spot from vehicle charge-port side to wall or post.
- ☐ Possible wire/conduit route, including attic/basement/garage access.
- ☐ Outdoor exposure: rain, snow, sun, drainage, and walkways.

Safety and sourcing notes

Do not use this PDF as electrical instructions. Follow the vehicle manual, EVSE manufacturer instructions, your utility rules, and the electrical code adopted by your local authority having jurisdiction.

Practical safety reminders for the owner:

- ☐ Avoid extension cords, unknown-brand adapters, damaged receptacles, loose plugs, or cords crossing trip paths.
- ☐ For outdoor or wet locations, use equipment and enclosures rated for that location and installed as required locally.
- ☐ Set vehicle/EVSE amperage to the installed circuit rating; do not assume a charger's maximum output is safe for the home.
- ☐ Keep permit, inspection, quote, receipt, rebate, and EVSE model documentation with home records.
- ☐ If the panel is constrained, ask about lower-amperage charging, load management, or service upgrade options instead of improvising.

Sources consulted

U.S. DOE / AFDC — Home Charging: most EV owners charge at home with AC Level 1 or Level 2; Level 1 may meet daily needs; Level 2 is 240V; outdoor equipment must be outdoor-rated; EV charging is an NEC continuous load; use a qualified electrician and local permitting authority.

U.S. DOE / AFDC — Charging Infrastructure: Level 1 uses a 120V AC plug; Level 2 uses 240V residential or 208V commercial service and is commonly installed for home overnight charging.

NFPA electrical vehicle safety resource: consulted for electrical/fire-safety framing and code-aware owner caveats.

New EV Owner Kit site content: Home Charging Setup Tool, Charging Basics, and Home EV Charger Installation guide.