

Electric car charging unit for home

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Looking to get a home wallbox EV charger installed? Our guide has you covered

Plugging in at home is usually the most convenient, safest and cost-effective way of charging an electric car or plug-in hybrid. You might find that the ability to charge faster using cheaper overnight energy tariffs will result in savings which will offset the cost of having a point installed after just a few years, compared to a three-pin plug.

There are plenty of companies offering home chargers for current or prospective EV owners, so it's worth researching home wall boxes before you buy to find out how long you will have to wait for it to be installed, if a site inspection will be necessary and to assess how and where to fit it.

Some homes with older electrics may require upgrading before a wall box can be fitted, and you'll need to think about connecting to the internet too, so you can make use of the apps which are needed to control and monitor the points.

A home wall box will normally deliver electricity at a rate of around 7 kiloWatts (kW), far faster than the 2.3 kW you can get from a three-pin plug. These domestic sockets should only really be used for emergency charges anyway, due to the continuous electrical load they put on the sockets. This could mean they overheat and trip a fuse, leaving you with less charge than you expected or putting a strain on your wiring which might be a safety issue. Most EVs and hybrids will not include these three-pin charge cables as standard either.

Some EV chargers are available with a maximum charging rate of 22kW but these require a three-phase electrical supply more often found at commercial properties such as factories and office blocks - most domestic electricity supplies are one phase.

Our in-depth guide on electric car charging has more information, while this guide will detail the 10 best home EV chargers, picked for style, price and functionality.

Price from: ?995 (+installation from ?395)Best for: Choice of colours and built-in cable storageConnection type:TetheredMax charging speed: 7kW (single phase)Solar integration: YesSmart tariff compatible: Yes (OVO only)Dimensions: 494 x 348 x 148mm

If you are fussy about how your chargers look, then Anderson's range should keep the most house-proud driver happy. The company offers 247 different colour options and even facias made of wood and carbon-fibre, so the unit can be matched to your house or car.

The only obvious sign of life from the A3 is an LED light on the front panel which shows you when the



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charger is active; all the other functions are controlled by Anderson's app, which can instantly show you the cost of every charge and lock or unlock your charger remotely. As you'd expect, it also allows you to schedule your charging in line with your most economical tariff or solar and wind power sources, but Anderson chargers are not yet compatible with smart tariffs. We've been promised the A3 will be linked to OVO's cheapest Anytime software "very soon" however.

Price from: ?735 plus installation
Best for: Compact size, discreet style
Connection type: Untethered
Charging speed: 7.4kW-22kW
Solar Integration: Yes
Smart tariff compatible: No
Dimensions: 253 x 193 x 106mm

The Easee One was developed in Norway specifically for the UK market and has a sort of discreet Nordic style which won't make it an eyesore on the front of your house. It's small, and there's a choice of five facial colours (white, red, dark blue, anthracite and black) which can match your décor. You can even replace them if you fancy a change.

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