Most common ev charger type

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How long does it take to charge an electric car? Well, there are four main charging speeds for electric cars - slow, fast, rapid and ultra-rapid. These represent the power outputs, and therefore EV charging speeds, available to charge an electric car. Note that power is measured in kilowatts (kW).

Each charger type has an associated set of connectors that are designed for low or high-power use, and for either AC or DC charging. The following sections offer a detailed description of the main charge point types and the different EV charging connector types that are available.

Ultra-rapid chargers are the fastest way to charge an EV, often found at motorway services or locations close to main routes. Rapid devices supply high power direct or alternating current - DC or AC - to charge an electric car as fast as possible.

Depending on the model, you can charge an electric car to 80% in as little as 10-15 minutes, though an average new EV would take around an hour on a standard 50 kW rapid charge point.

Power from a unit represents the maximum charging speed available, though the car will reduce charging speed as the battery gets closer to full charge. As such, times are quoted for a charge to 80%, after which EV charging speeds tail off significantly. This maximises charging efficiency and helps protect the battery.

All rapid devices have charging cables tethered to the unit, and rapid charging can only be used on vehicles with rapid-charging capability. Given the easily recognisable connector profiles - see images below - the specification for your model is easy to check from the vehicle manual or inspecting the on-board inlet.

Rapid DC chargers provide power at 50 kW (125A), use either the CHAdeMO or CCS charging standards, and are indicated by purple icons on our live desktop map. These are the most common type of rapid EV charge points currently, having been the standard for the best part of a decade.

Both connectors typically charge an EV to 80% in 20 minutes to an hour depending on battery capacity and starting state of charge.

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Ultra-rapid DC chargers provide power at 100 kW or more. These are typically either 100 kW, 150 kW, or 350 kW - though other maximum EV charging speeds between these figures are possible. These are the next-generation of rapid charge point, able to keep recharging times down despite battery capacities increasing in newer EVs.

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