Type 1 electric car charger

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Understanding how to charge your electric car is essential in this day and age, when battery electric vehicle adoption rates have reached heights of 1,300,000. And that means grasping the basics of fast charging--or, more specifically, Type 1 and Type 2 EV charging.

In this article, we’re here to answer – what’s the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 EV chargers? In addition to explaining Type 1 and Type 2 EV charging, letting you know which electric vehicles have Type 1 and Type 2 connectors and explaining the key differences between Type 1 and Type 2.

When purchasing your EV, it’s likely the charging cable will come with a Type 2 connector.

Simply put, a Type 1 EV charger has a five-pin design. Type 1 EV connectors are commonly used for electric cars in Asia. Because of this, you typically won"t find Type 1 EV chargers in the UK, nor electric cars with a Type 1 connector – this is especially the case with new electric vehicles.

That said, in very rare cases, you might find a Type 1 connector on older electric cars. For example, the first generation of the Nissan Leaf and the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV have Type 1 connectors.

Untethered, or sometimes called socketed, home EV chargers can come in the Type 1 form. However, tethered chargers tend to only come in the Type 2 format.

A Type 2 EV charger has a seven-pin design, and is the most common EV charger type in the UK, given the wide adoption of Type 2 electric cars in Europe. What’s more, Type 2 EV chargers are used for fast EV charging using Alternating Current (AC). With this in mind, AC public electric car charging points (such as 7kW and 22kW EV chargers) are Type 2.

Most home EV chargers come in the Type 2 form, too – especially tethered chargers.

Electric vehicles with a Type 2 connector include the VW e-Golf, Renault Zoe, Tesla Model S and most new EVs on the market.

There are several differences between Type 1 and Type 2 EV chargers.

Let’s get into them.

The starkest and most obvious difference between Type 1 and Type 2 EV chargers is the design of the connector. Type 1 EV connectors have a five-pin design, usually taking on a circular design. In comparison, Type 2 EV connectors have seven pins.

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Web: https://www.kary.com.pl/contact-us/
Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com
WhatsApp: 8613816583346