



## Checklist: Taking Delivery of Your EV

Congratulations on your decision to buy an electric car! This checklist will guide you through the process of finalizing your purchase—and ease the transition into daily driving of a car powered by inexpensive, clean, domestic electricity. For a full list of our guides, please visit [www.plugin cars.com/guides.html](http://www.plugin cars.com/guides.html).

### 1. CLOSING THE DEAL

#### □ **Decide to Lease or Buy**

- When you lease, the dealership should deduct the federal tax incentive from the base price. When you buy the car, the incentive is realized as a potential credit—provided that your tax bill is more than the value of the credit.
- Most new EV buyers are leasing these days. Although EV batteries are designed to last the lifetime of the car, leasing the car has the added benefit of leasing the battery, which removes any concerns about its longevity.

#### □ **Get Access to Dealership Chargers**

- Many carmakers now offer various charging programs and incentives, providing easier access to chargers on dealership lots and other locations. Get the details (or sometimes, a membership card) from your sales associate.

#### □ **Download the Vehicle's Mobile App**

- Carmakers offer an EV-specific app to let you stop and start charging, remotely manage your cabin climate, and even help find your parking space.

---

### 2. INCENTIVES

#### □ **Save Sales Receipt for Tax Day**

- Buyers of plug-in hybrids and electric cars benefit from a federal tax credit of between \$2,500 and \$7,500, depending on the vehicle. If you can, consult with a tax professional who can determine the likelihood of realizing the full benefit, based on your tax returns from previous years.
- Save a copy of your sales receipt for tax day. Details are available from the IRS.

#### □ **Apply for State and Local Incentives**

- A wide range of incentives and perks, including rebates and sales tax exemptions, are available from state and local governments. View a comprehensive list of special incentives that your region offers and learn how to apply in our “Incentives Guide.”

#### □ **Apply for Carpool Lane Sticker**

- California, Georgia, Maryland, Hawaii, and other states allow single occupancy plug-in vehicle drivers to use carpool (HOV) lanes. Ask your sales associate how to apply, or visit our “Incentives Guide.”

### 3. HOME CHARGING

#### □ **Decide If You Want a Home Charging Station**

- The majority of owners of pure electric cars choose to install a 240V home charging station in order to cut their refueling time down to one-third or one-quarter of the time it would take on a 120V outlet. A home charging station is a nice-to-have option for owners of plug-in hybrids (like the Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid) or other plug-in cars that have extended range (like the Chevy Volt).
- You can find detailed guidance and ratings on the cost, amperage, cable length, portability, and connectivity of specific home charging stations in our “Home Charger Guide.”

#### □ **Install Home Charger**

- Any qualified electrician can handle the installation, so avoid premiums charged by so-called EV installation specialists. Most electricians are happy to schedule a visit right away.
- Installation cost can be as low as \$100, but it can also be hundreds of dollars more if you need to upgrade your electrical service or run lengthy conduits to where you park your car.

#### □ **Choose Best Utility Rate**

- Utilities commonly offer Time-of-Use (TOU) rates that significantly drop the price of electricity if you charge off-peak (usually after midnight). The price commonly increases, sometimes dramatically, if you charge during peak hours (early evening). Call your local utility to inquire about TOU plans for EV drivers.
- Use your vehicle’s onboard scheduler to set the time that you need your car to be fully charged for your morning commute.

### 4. PUBLIC CHARGING

#### □ **Download the PlugShare App**

- PlugShare has the most comprehensive and up-to-date database for public charging stations. The app, which is available for iPhone and Android devices, provides station photos, ratings, costs, and compatibility information, which makes it easy to find the right charging location when you are away from home. See our “How to Use PlugShare” guide for more info.

#### □ **Enroll in Charging Networks**

- More than half of EV charging stations are free and easily accessible, but many belong to a charging network and require a membership RFID card to use.
- ChargePoint and Blink are the two largest public charging networks whose stations require a swipe pass to use. Get more detailed info about the competing charging networks in our “Electric Car Charging Networks Guide.”