



Level 1 charging vs 2

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New EV drivers may struggle to understand their new purchase, which may be significantly different from traditional cars in many ways. For instance, with many, there is initial confusion about "how to "refuel" my EV." Should one charge with the cord that came with the vehicle or install a new charging installation at home?

Understanding the differences can help you decide which to purchase and which to use. Let's look at the differences between these charging levels to help you see which may be more suited to your driving needs and style.

The comparison table below shows - at a glance - the difference between Level 1 and Level 2 EV chargers based on electric and power specifications, estimated charging time, typical locations, current type, and connector type.

The time it takes to charge an EV using Level 1 or 2 chargers depends on various factors including the charger power delivery, the battery size, and the onboard battery converters. Getting a definitive idea of their charging speed can help you better manage your charging schedule and plan your trip with more confidence. Here are estimates to help you get started.

Consider your vehicle is equipped with a 60 kWh battery, and your come-with-the-car Level 1 charger provides about 10 miles of range per hour at most of the charging, which would take around 10 hours to get 100 miles of range, and will take nearly 20 hours to charge fully.

Level 2 chargers are estimated to charge EV batteries about 5 to 15 times faster than a Level 1 charger would, depending on the power output and the type of EV one is charging. Typically, you can get between 20 to 80 miles per hour of charging. That is, about a 25-mile range (for 7.4kW output), 37 miles (for 11kW), and 75 miles (for 22kW) for an hour of charging using a Level 2 charger.

Although J1772 charging connector standards are common, they are not the only ones available. Some EV manufacturers like Tesla design their cars to be compatible only with their proprietary charging plug. Note that, unlike traditional Level 1, 2, and 3 ports on most EVs, Tesla's charging port is available for both AC and DC fast charging.

In North America, the Type 1 J1772, or J-plug, is the most commonly used connector standard for Level 1 charging, and Tesla has their own charging connector for all level charging. The Type 2 J1772 port, however, also known as the Mennekes plug, is widely used in the EU market.

The J1772 port as well as the J1772 Type 2 port can also be used for Level 2 charging, with Tesla vehicles

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being the exception. However, Tesla offers J1772 adapters for Tesla owners so that they can charge their vehicles at regular Level 2 charging stations.

Level 1 EV chargers are commonly used at home as "plug and play" or as emergency backup on trips where it might be difficult to locate a charging station in your area. It may also be used as portable EV charging since the charging cord is convenient for both storage and deployment.

Level 2 chargers are usually installed in public charging stations as well as public locations with parking spaces such as educational facilities, entertainment venues, and hotels. They may also be installed in homes and workplaces as they are ideal for charging overnight at home or charging through long idle hours at the workplace.

To live an EV life with ease and comfort, having Level 1 or Level 2 charging equipment within reach is a must. They allow you to better manage your commute schedule as well as your travel plans. Continue to read more about installing an EV charger for your vehicle.

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