

Charging guide

How do I charge my car

How much does it cost

This is one of the main questions before getting that first Electric Vehicle

There are basically three main type of chargers. The speed is the biggest difference.

Ultimately chargers are first come first served.

1 slow, three pin plug / EVSE also known as the granny lead / charger, the first leaf up to 2017 will charge at about 10 miles per hour on this lead, they are also limited to 10 amps.

2 Fast, this would be like the dedicated charge point you may have fitted at home or you may use when out such as supermarkets / on the street, these are often referred to as destination chargers because you may spent one hour or many at the destination. This type will require you to have your own charging cable most are type 2 to type 2, the Nissan leaf up to 2017 will require type 1 to type 2. The charging cable should lock into the charge point and the vehicle, cable theft is rare but always good to be vigilant. Some lock into the charge post until you remove from the vehicle ie ending the charge. I have always plugged into the post then the car.

3 Rapid, This is the fastest type of charger due to the power it will have the cable attached to the charger. This is the type of charger you will look for when going on a journey that is beyond the range of the vehicle. Rapids come in different powers 350kw 150kw 100kw 50kw, worth knowing what power your vehicle will be able to use if you have a early leaf you can use a 350 kw charger but the crucial thing is the vehicle will only take 50 kw so if possible use a 50 kw if there is a choice some places now are like hubs with many chargers of differing powers.

Cost, well it ranges from free, yes free to about 70 pence per kwh obviously if you see a charger being used almost all of the time it may well be free of course free is great but can encourage free loaders, I am most defiantly a free loader often the ones that say they are not are often as bad as me lol.

How do I pay, there are basically App based or RFID to start / finish the charge, the other type is charge by wire as used by tesla, this is where the vehicle talks to the network and the charge starts you usually have an account and money is taken directly from that.

With the slow / granny charger you must make sure you have good electrics if you intend using this to charge your car, it is recommended ideally do not use an extension lead, many of us have used extension leads but as a last resort if not able to get close enough. The lead must be rated at 13 amp.

When planning a trip there are various apps available, plugshare, zap map to name just two, these are valuable to decide what chargers you will use for any given area.

My suggestion would be to download the apps and have a look what chargers are available.

In the beginning it seems overwhelming all the different charger types and charge provider, I will just say it is always like that but as you own the vehicle longer you learn the ones that seem less problematic and work for you.

Connector types.

Here we have CCS and type 2, the CCS lead and connector basically what the plug on the vehicle looks like, the top part is basically a type 2 see the image above the right image is the type 2 that plugs into the bottom right image.



Chamedo and type 1 this was the fitted to the 24kw and 30kw leaf



Here we have Chamedo, CCS & Type 2, as a comparison, these cover virtually all the electric cars in the uk.

