Home charging set-up checklist

Use this before you call an electrician and when comparing quotes.

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Address _____ Car _____ Date _____

1. Do you need a wall charger?

- [ ] **Work out your daily kilometres**: a power point adds about 10–15 km an hour, so many drivers don't need more.
- [ ] **Check the power point is on its own circuit** and in good condition. Avoid extension leads.
- [ ] **Note how long the car is parked at home** overnight and during the day.
- [ ] **Check whether you're renting or in a strata building**: you'll need permission, and strata may need a by-law.

2. Before the electrician comes

- [ ] **Take photos of your switchboard and meter box** to send with quote requests.
- [ ] **Measure the distance** from the switchboard to where you park.
- [ ] **Find out if you have single-phase or three-phase power** (your electrician or bill can tell you).
- [ ] **Check your car's on-board AC charging limit**: many cars can't use more than 7 kW on single-phase.
- [ ] **If you have solar**, decide whether you want a charger that can use spare solar.

3. Questions for the electrician

- [ ] **Does the switchboard need an upgrade** or new safety switches?
- [ ] **Is the house supply big enough**, or does the charger need load management?
- [ ] **Will the network need to approve it**? Some networks limit chargers on single-phase homes.
- [ ] **Is the price fixed**, including cabling, conduit, trenching and any switchboard work?
- [ ] **Will they supply a certificate of compliance** when it's done?

4. Choosing a charger

- [ ] **Tethered (cable attached) or untethered**: tethered is easier day to day.

- [ ] **Smart features**: scheduling for off-peak, solar charging and an app.
- [ ] **Weather rating** if it's outdoors (IP rating), and a holster for the cable.
- [ ] **Warranty length** and local support.

5. After it's installed

- [ ] **Switch to an EV or time-of-use electricity plan** with a cheap overnight rate, or use free midday power if it's offered.
- [ ] **Set the car or charger to charge in the cheap hours**
- [ ] **Keep the compliance certificate** for insurance and when you sell.
- [ ] **Tell your insurer** if your policy asks about fixtures.

Comparing quotes

Electrician	Charger	Price (fixed?)	Switchboard work	Can start	Warranty

> **Tip:** the cable run usually decides the price. A garage next to the meter box is the cheapest install.

Notes

General information only, not financial, legal or electrical advice.