

Installing Your Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Existing 208-240-volt outlet

If you have an existing 240-volt outlet (*used for electric clothes dryers or RVs*) in your garage within reach of your electric vehicle, then installation is easy! Order a charging station with a plug (*instead of hardwire "pigtails"*) and follow the setup and installation instructions that came with your electric vehicle charging station. Then, just plug it into the wall outlet and you're ready to charge! If you are installing a 40 amp charger, you will need to make sure that you have a 50 amp breaker for the existing outlet. Many electric clothes dryers are 30 amps, which may require an adapter and are only appropriate for charging at 24 amps. There are several products that will let you automatically switch between an EV charger and dryer through a 2-outlet splitter box.

No existing 208-240-volt outlet

- *Portable:* Installing a NEMA 14-50 plug ("RV outlet") is good option so that the unit will be portable in case you move. Contact an electrician to install a NEMA 14-50 plug, and then follow the setup and installation instructions that came with your electric vehicle charging station.
- *Hardwire:* If you don't want the station to be portable, you may request that the electrician hardwire the charging station instead of installing a NEMA 14-50 outlet. Order a charging station with a the "hardwire" install option (does not have a plug). Once your electrician has wired the station, follow the setup and installation instructions that came with your electric vehicle charging station.

Finding an Electrician

To prepare your home for charging a vehicle, find a licensed electrician who can install a dedicated circuit for your car to charge, typically a 50-amp circuit. Be sure to check your car to see where the plug is located and think about where it will be parked while charging to help determine a good location for the charging station. Many people have multiple outlets installed.

If you have a trusted electrician, you can contact them for an installation quote.

If you need to find an electrician, check out the [Sonoma County Energy Independence Program \(SCEIP\) Find a Contractor tool](#).

Cost

Cost of installations can vary significantly, depending on your unique home situation:

- Homes that are relatively new with modern electrical service panels, close to your desired charging station location that don't require trenching or drywall removal can cost several hundred dollars to install.
- Homes with outdated, or fully utilized electrical service panels that require upgrades, or those that are far from the desired location and require trenching or drywall removal can cost thousands of dollars to install.

NOTE: We encourage customers to acquire multiple quotes from licensed electricians to determine your best option. Make sure to acquire the proper permits and inspections for any electrical work, as required by local regulations. Check with your electrician on local requirements.

Tax Incentives & Rebates

Please visit the Internal Revenue Service site to determine if a [tax credit](#) is currently available for the installation of residential electric vehicle charging stations. The State of California has a variety of [rebates and incentives](#) for EVs and charging equipment.