

KINTO

How to Drive an **Electric** **Vehicle**

To achieve the superior economy and reduced operating costs of an electric vehicle, drivers need to understand how the vehicle works and react accordingly. Read our guide for tips to help get as many miles as possible out of a single charge.

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How to Drive an **Electric Vehicle**

To reach peak efficiency numbers, drivers need to understand how an electric vehicle works and react accordingly.

The process includes getting used to strong acceleration and a braking system that actually adds power back to an EV battery when operated correctly. Knowing how to charge and manage an EV is also useful.

Driving an electric car for maximum efficiency

Here are a few helpful tips to help get as many miles as possible out of a battery pack to extend your range on a single charge.

Take it easy

To use fewer electrons, replace road rage with driving Zen. Learn to anticipate stops and slowly coast toward a red light with your foot off the accelerator pedal. When taking off from a stop, gently ease down on the accelerator until gradually reaching your desired speed.

Aggressive driving is estimated to reduce efficiency by about 30 percent. On the motorway, where aerodynamics make a big difference, stay as close as possible to the speed limit.

Keep maintenance schedule

Electric cars need less maintenance than petrol cars, but neglecting upkeep can hurt efficiency. Keep your tyres properly inflated – losing just 3 PSI can reduce

efficiency by 1%. Check your car's recommended pressure regularly.

Follow service intervals and check coolant levels. While EVs don't have traditional engines, many use liquid cooling for the battery, inverter, and motor. Low coolant can lead to poor performance or even battery damage.

Strategise your route

The route you take can greatly impact your car's efficiency and range. In an electric car, you'll notice this more because of the shorter driving range and the need to charge it every night.

Motorways aren't always the best option. Higher speeds create more drag, using up your battery faster. While avoiding motorways can help extend your range, the right route matters. Frequent stops, starts or steep hills can reduce efficiency. Choose routes with gentle slopes, fewer junctions, and light traffic. If possible, compare your range after trying different routes.

What are the main ways you can charge an electric car?

There are three ways to charge an electric car: at home, at the workplace, or at a public charging point.

Home charging

In terms of convenience, charging each night at home is simplest. This will likely provide most of the daily driving range the average driver will need – and mean they effectively start each day with 'a full tank'.

Most electric cars can be charged at home using a standard three-pin domestic plug socket. A new EV will be supplied with a standard EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) charging cable, allowing you to charge anywhere you can find a main socket.

While the EVSE cable will keep you and your electric car safe when charging, we would recommend the installation of a dedicated EV charging wallbox, which should be fitted by a trained electrician.

As part of the **Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme** (EVHS), the government will provide funding of up to 75% (or up to £350) towards the cost of installing electric vehicle smart chargepoint if you live in a flat or rental property. A wallbox is safer and quicker than using a domestic plug socket, as it communicates directly with the car, with charging time reduced by 30-60%, depending on the vehicle.

Workplace charging

Workplace charging points help make electric cars viable for business users with longer commutes.

Public charging

The network of public chargers is best suited for longer journeys, with a rapid charging unit providing up to 80% of charge in as little as 20-30 minutes.

Non Tesla drivers can now also use the Tesla Supercharger network where available. This service costs £10.99 a month for members. Drivers need to download the free-to-use Tesla app to see where their nearest ChargePoint is and book on. A handy failsafe for those doing a lot of motorway miles.

Different types of charge

Slow charging

The clue is in the name: these are the slowest chargers available to the EV owner. Units are rated at 3kW, and a full charge could take as long as 12 hours, but most likely 6-7 hours. By their very nature,

slow chargers are unsuitable for public use and tend to be found at home or in the workplace. While an electric car can be charged using a domestic plug socket, a dedicated wall box is recommended.

Fast charging

You will find fast chargers in supermarket car parks, shopping centres or anywhere an electric car can be left for an extended period. A 7kW charger will recharge an EV in 3-5 hours, while a 22kW unit could complete the task in a couple of hours.

Rapid charging

A rapid charger can provide up to 80% of charge in as little as 20 minutes, making them the quickest means of charging in the UK. They are commonly found at motorway service stations and close to major roads.

Visit our EV Hub where you can find the support, advice and tools to enable you to move towards a more sustainable future.

KINTO Charged Electric Vehicle Hub >

