



Congratulations on starting your electric journey!

Congratulations on your electric vehicle! By going electric, you're choosing convenience, comfort, and savings. Below are recommendations to get the most out of your car. Following these tips will help maximize your savings and time.

Charged up and ready to go

There are three levels of electric vehicle charging:

Level 1



For Level 1 charging, just plug your EV into a normal wall outlet (120 volts). This type of charge can provide 2-5 miles of range per hour, making it a great option for plug-in hybrid models or vehicles with smaller batteries.

Level 2



Level 2 chargers require a 240-volt outlet and can provide up to 35 miles of range per hour. Many public chargers are Level 2. This level is also ideal for home charging if your vehicle has a larger battery.

Level 3



Level 3 chargers, also called DC Fast Chargers, will charge your vehicle in as little as 30 minutes. They are often near major interstates for quick charging during long trips.

At Home

There are several convenient options for charging your EV at home. Your vehicle comes with a Level 1 charging cord that you can plug into a standard outlet for a quick top-off. Most homeowners also opt for a Level 2 charger.

Apply for a Level 2 home charger rebate: [Energize Delaware](#)

Ask Your Property Owner: Have you considered installing Level 2 chargers? Multi-family dwellings are eligible for the [Delaware Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebates program](#). These incentives cover up to 90% of the cost of charging stations.

Ask Your Utility: Do you have off-peak savings programs in my area? [Delmarva Power](#) and the [Delaware Electric Cooperative](#) give customers lower rates for charging during less busy times of the day.

At Work & On the Go

More employers are offering EV charging as a workplace incentive. The [Delaware Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate Program](#) incentivizes businesses and organizations to install up to 10 charging ports.

There's also a growing network of public Level 2 and 3 charging stations across Delaware and the United States. You'll pay to charge at most public stations, either through an app or by credit card.

Quick Tips for Charging

Ask Your Dealer: Am I eligible for credits for public charging with the purchase of my new vehicle?

Be a Star. Move Your Car. When you finish using a public charger, move your car so other EVs can charge. Some stations will charge an additional fee if you use their charger after a set amount of time.

Keep your battery healthy. Whether you charge at home or in public, it is recommended that you only charge your vehicle up to 80%. The last 20% charges much slower, and you likely won't need it to reach your destination. It is also good to use mostly Level 1 and Level 2 chargers, since relying only on Level 3 chargers can lower your battery life.

Get started locating chargers near you: [Alternative Fuels Data Center](#)
[Plugshare](#)

Running clean and green for life

A few simple tips can keep your maintenance costs low and help your new EV last for years.

Winter driving

Anticipate lower range. Plan for lower range. On days when the temperature drops below freezing, all vehicles -- gas and EVs -- get less efficient. You may need to charge your EV more frequently in colder months, so keep your portable Level 1 charging cord in your car in case you need a quick top-off.

Preheat while plugged in. Warm up the vehicle before you unplug it to reduce the energy pulled from the battery.

Schedule departures. Schedule your vehicle to finish charging right before you need to go. That means the battery will be warm when you're ready to drive.

Heated surfaces. Use a heated steering wheel and heated seats rather than cabin heat. These are more efficient, pulling less energy from the battery while driving.

All year round

Ask your dealer. Do you offer free roadside assistance for the first few years of ownership?

Tire pressure. Keep your tires inflated according to the manufacturer's recommendations to improve efficiency. Make sure to rotate your tires regularly (at least every 5,000 miles, as specified) to keep your vehicle safe.

Regenerative braking. EVs use the kinetic energy from braking to recharge the battery while driving. Adjust the amount of regenerative braking used to increase vehicle efficiency. Check your owner's manual or ask your dealer for more details. Even though your car uses regenerative braking, use your mechanical brakes periodically to prevent rotor rust.

Charge to 80-90% full. Extend the life of your battery by charging to 80-90% for day-to-day travel. Many vehicles let you set the charging limit each time you plug your car in. If you can, set the optimal charging limit so that your car isn't taking on more charge than it should.

Check your owner's manual for more tips. Your owner's manual and dealer may have tips on specific charging and maintenance recommendations for your vehicle, including what to do if you go away for more than a week.

Want to learn more about Delaware's plan to drive electric?
Visit the [Delaware Department of Transportation website](https://delaware.gov/cleancars) for updates.

Happy Driving!

de.gov/cleancars