



## EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

### Chapter 1 – From pump to plug: what you need to know first

If you're just starting out on your electric journey you probably have lots of questions. If you've never driven electric before, you might be wondering about the day-to-day practicalities of owning an Electric Vehicle (EV). And even if you're already a convert to battery power, you might be a bit confused by some of the new features and language. This first Guide in our series, "Everything you wanted to know about Electric Vehicles but were afraid to ask", addresses the things you might want to think about before making the switch.

#### Is it worth it?

There are lots of reasons why people are making the switch from pump to plug; Electric Vehicles are cheaper to own when you consider exemptions on road tax and the city congestion charges and, with no exhaust emissions, they're better for the environment. They're easy and fun to drive, are particularly zippy driving in towns and cities, don't have gears to worry about and less noise makes them quieter and effortless to drive.

#### The benefits of switching to electric:

- ✓ Environmental sustainability
- ✓ Lower running costs
- ✓ Less maintenance
- ✓ Easy and convenient to drive
- ✓ Government Grants
- ✓ Quiet and smooth driving
- ✓ Energy efficiency





## ▲ Top five things to consider:



### Calculate your weekly mileage

Work out how many miles you do in a week. The average motorist covers around 20 miles a day so the switch will be an easy one. If you only make big trips once or twice a year, it's unlikely you'll need a vehicle with a big battery.



### Plan your journey

All electric drivers need to become familiar with how to charge their vehicle, and journey planning is essential. Thankfully, there are several apps and websites, such as [Zap Map](#), available to identify charging points along your journey, real-time accessibility and availability information in an easy-to-read map format.



### Your Total Cost of Ownership

Work out the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) that captures all the direct and indirect costs to show that Electric Vehicles are often cheaper over their lifetime. Taking a TCO approach will include the more visible and obvious costs such as the finance payment, maintenance, and insurance but it also considers the less visible costs such as fuelling & VAT.



### Your charging plans

Work out your charging plan. One of the many advantages of owning an Electric Vehicle is that you can 'refuel' from home. Even if you arrive home with just a few miles left on your battery, next morning you can be charged up and ready to go again.

If you can't charge at home, thanks to major advances in the public charging network, you can easily top up on a public charger while you shop, enjoy an evening out or go to the gym. There's also a growing trend for community charging enabling Electric Vehicle drivers to share charging points with their neighbours or borrow them from households en route when they're not in use.



### Your Grants

To kickstart the electric revolution as we head towards the 2035 switchover, the Government initially introduced several grants and incentives to make purchasing an Electric Vehicle more affordable. However, with the focus now on making charging more accessible, the latest grants include: the EV Charge Point Grant, which provides funding up to 75% of the cost of installing charge points at home, and grants for employers to install charging points in the workplace.





## ^ What exactly can affect your Electric Vehicle range?



### Driving style

Avoid harsh braking and sudden acceleration and turn off your Sport Mode when you don't need it. Plan your journey and try to avoid steep hills. Be an electric pro and adopt a smooth driving style!



### Heavy load

Excessive weight in the vehicle will also impact your range so remove accessories and tools you don't need and take off your roof rack if you don't use it.



### Tyre pressure

Make sure you have the correct tyre pressure as flatter tyres burn up energy. Tyre pressures on Electric Vehicles are higher than petrol or diesel vehicles, and tyres can also be lighter than traditional tyres.



### Weather

During Summer your Electric Vehicle can take a little longer to charge to avoid the battery overheating, and similarly in Winter when the battery is working a little harder to combat lower temperatures, it may lose a little range quicker. Pre-conditioning your vehicle with your manufacturer App while charging is a great way to preserve your range.

## ^ What doesn't affect your Electric Vehicle range?

Contrary to popular belief, heated seats & steering wheel, radio & infotainment, headlights & windscreen wipers will not affect range as they are all powered by the 12v battery.

### **Regenerative braking: what is it and how it can help you improve your range?**

Regenerative braking is a technology which converts kinetic energy into electrical energy during braking or deceleration. When you brake, the electric motor operates in reverse, acting as a generator to capture your Electric Vehicle's kinetic energy. This energy is then converted into electrical energy and stored in your vehicle's battery for later use.

Regenerative braking:

- ✓ Helps improve the overall efficiency and range.
- ✓ Reduces wear and tear on traditional friction brakes, leading to lower maintenance costs and extended brake life.
- ✓ Contributes to a smoother driving experience.





## Together, we will shape tomorrow's mobility.

Ready to explore deeper?

To continue your electric journey, download and explore the next chapters of our series **"Everything you ever wanted to know about Electric Vehicles but were afraid to ask"** and discover additional valuable insights and information about Electric Vehicles:

- ↓ [Chapter 1 - From pump to plug: what you need to know first](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 2 - Top 5 reasons to lease an Electric Vehicle](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 3 - Navigating Electric Vehicle choices](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 4 - From kW to range: Electric Vehicle glossary](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 5 - Charging made simple: options, speeds, and solutions](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 6 - Service & Maintenance](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 7 - My test drive: what to expect and what to ask](#)
- ↓ [Chapter 8 - Myth-busting: the truth about Electric Vehicles](#)