



# Choosing the EV that's best for you depends on your needs and preferences. Here are 10 key considerations when buying an electric vehicle.

- 1. Driving habits.** EVs make excellent “daily drivers,” and they’re well-suited to people who drive the same distance every day. If you need to haul a heavy trailer, or you don’t know where your day will take you, an EV is probably not for you.
- 2. New or used?** Buying new means you’ll get the latest technology – and qualify for government incentives – but there are reasons to consider used EVs, including affordability. Be sure to assess the health of the battery, and check that the licensing and compliance paperwork is up to date.
- 3. Battery range.** Over time, batteries lose power. The average battery range of an EV will decrease to about 80% of its original range over five years of normal use. So if you buy a used EV and you drive more than 100 kilometres a day, you’ll need to plan for recharging.
- 4. Battery warranty.** Did you know most EVs have a separate warranty for the battery? Make sure you understand what’s covered. If you opt for a used vehicle, check battery health and test the range with a plug-in reader that transmits data to any device.
- 5. Driving range.** How far can you go on single charge? All EVs come with a “range remaining” display, which estimates the after-charge range based on recent driving patterns. If the last 10 kms you travelled were uphill, it will give you a lower estimated range.
- 6. Software upgrades.** New EVs allow you to upgrade vehicle software and firmware with ease. Ask about the latest upgrades when you buy. For older models, consider adding on-board chargers, motor controller power settings, and wholebattery upgrades.
- 7. Charging stations.** You’ll need to be able to recharge your EV at night. Most dealers include a dedicated charging station when you buy new. Use a licensed electrical contractor to install or mount it in your garage. Find a contractor at [esasafe.ca](http://esasafe.ca).
- 8. Public chargers.** Before you buy, check the charge port to see if it’s compatible with the public charging stations near you. Some EVs come with a direct current (DC) fast-charging option. Unless it’s a 15 amp outlet, converted cars rarely have the connector that works with public chargers.
- 9. Use renewables.** You can charge an EV with electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as sun, wind, hydro or geothermal power. If you have a solar Photovoltaic system, for example, you can charge your EV by harnessing the power of the sun.
- 10. Recharge wisely.** Be aware of Time-of-Use (TOU) prices – when energy demand and electricity rates are low. In Ontario, off-peak times are from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays, and all day on weekends and holidays. Charging at low-peak times will make your EV more energy-efficient.