



Chargers electric cars

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The most important decision an electric vehicle owner needs to make--after choosing which EV to buy, of course--is which home charger is the best for their needs. If you're currently trying to figure out which EV charger is the best, you've come to the right place.

What you're about to read is a little different from the average "Best EV Chargers" list you might find on any EV publication or tech website, which often just aggregates reviews from other sources without doing any independent testing at all. Here at InsideEVs and for my channel, State of Charge, I actually do extensive testing on these chargers myself.

Unlike other outlets, I put the chargers through a variety of torture tests and use them for a couple of weeks before I score them with my unique ChargerRater point-based rating system. Nobody takes testing, reviewing, and rating EV charging equipment as seriously as I do.

Emporia entered the EV charger scene in 2022 with a high-quality, yet low-cost 48-amp EV charger. Offered for \$399.00, it was the least expensive 48-amp WiFi-connected smart charger that was safety certified.

It quickly became one of my top recommendations, based on everything it had to offer for under \$400.00. There haven't been many changes since its introduction, but now you can order the Emporia with either a J1772 connector or the new North American charging standard (NACS) connector.

The ChargePoint Home Flex is the second generation of ChargePoint Home chargers. Available since 2019, the Home Flex has been one of the top-selling EV chargers for the past five years.

The Home Flex is available as a plug-in unit that can deliver up to 40 amps, or it can deliver up to 48 amps when hardwired. It's a WIFI-connected smart charger that is Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant compatible and has the best cold-weather cable I have ever tested, making it a good choice for outdoor installations in cold weather climates.

ChargePoint recently lowered the price significantly, and the NEMA 14-50 plug-in version is now \$599.00, down from \$699.00, making it an even better choice than before.

Note: ChargePoint advertises the Home Flex as a 50-amp charger, but I've found that to be misleading. That's because an electric device with a continuous load (three hours of continuous use or more) that delivers 50 amps requires a no. 4 wire. However, the Home Flex cannot accept no. 4AWG. The thickest wire it can accept is no. 6, which, according to the National Electric Code is only good for a 48-amp continuous load.

The Magic Dock is a built-in J1772 adapter that remains tethered to the charger when you remove the Tesla

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(NACS) connector. However, when you need to charge a J1772-equipped EV (most non-Tesla EVs), you press a button on the Magic Dock and the J1772 adapter pulls out of the charger, tethered to the NACS connector.

The Universal Wall Connector is also bi-directional capable, and when paired with the Tesla Cybertruck, can accept power from the Cybertruck to power your home when needed.

I should mention that the regular Tesla Wall Connector is also a very good charger and should be considered if you don't need the Magic Dock or bi-directional power features.

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