

Solar & EV Charging Readiness Guide

Find out whether your home is ready for solar and EV charging before you talk to a sales rep.

This guide helps you get ready to talk to solar and EV-charger contractors. It does not replace a site assessment or an electrician's evaluation of your panel.

Part 1 — Is your roof ready for solar?

- ☐ Roof covering has at least 10–15 years of life left (replace first if not — removing panels later adds cost)
- ☐ You have a large, mostly unshaded roof plane facing south, west or east
- ☐ Trees that shade the roof between 9am and 3pm are noted (and whether you can trim them)
- ☐ No major roof leaks, sagging or rot
- ☐ You know whether your HOA has rules about panels
- ☐ You have 12 months of electric bills (kWh usage) to share with bidders

Solar panels vs. a solar roof

	Rack-mounted panels	Integrated solar roof
Best when	Roof is in good shape	Roof needs replacing anyway
Typical cost	Lower	Higher (includes roofing)
Appearance	Visible panels	Lower profile
Contractors	Many available	Fewer available

Part 2 — Is your home ready for EV charging?

	Level 1	Level 2
Outlet	Standard 120V outlet	240V circuit (like a dryer)
Typical range added per hour	About 3–5 miles	About 15–35 miles, depending on charger and vehicle
Good for	Short daily commutes	Longer commutes, two EVs, faster turnaround
Electrician needed?	Usually not, if a dedicated outlet exists	Yes

Electrical panel questions to ask an electrician

- ☐ What is my main panel size (amps) and is there room for a new 240V breaker?
- ☐ Is a load calculation needed before adding a charger (and solar)?
- ☐ Will I need a panel upgrade or a load-management device?
- ☐ What permit and inspection does my city require?
- ☐ Where is the best charger location for cable reach and weather exposure?

Tip: take a clear photo of your panel label and breakers before you call — it speeds up every quote.

Part 3 — Planning solar and EV together

- Add your expected EV charging (kWh per month) to your usage before you size a solar system.
- Ask bidders whether they assumed EV charging in their production estimate.
- Ask your utility about time-of-use and EV rate plans — they can change the math.
- Look up current incentives at official sources such as your utility, your state energy office, and IRS guidance. Confirm eligibility with a tax professional.

Questions to ask every solar quote

- ☐ What equipment (panel, inverter, racking) is included, by model?
- ☐ What annual production (kWh) do you estimate, and what assumptions did you use?
- ☐ What is the total price and price per watt?
- ☐ Who handles permits and utility interconnection, and how long does it usually take?
- ☐ What warranties cover equipment, workmanship and roof penetrations?
- ☐ Is battery backup included or optional, and what will it power during an outage?

Questions to ask every EV-charger quote

- ☐ Is the charger hardwired or plug-in, and at what amperage?
- ☐ Is a permit included in the price?
- ☐ Does the price include any panel work or load management?
- ☐ What is the warranty on parts and labor?

Next steps

- Want a written plan and electrician scope? See the *EV Charging Installation Plan*.
- Want someone on your side for a solar project? See the *Solar Roof & Solar Panel Project Program*.