pickwise

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EV checklist

From affordable crossovers to three-row family SUVs, we compared popular electric cars on the US market so you can shortlist before a test drive.

The 10 at a glance

#	Car	Best for	Body	Seats	Good for
1	Hyundai Ioniq 5	Best overall	Compact SUV	5	Most drivers
2	Tesla Model Y	Best for road trips	Compact SUV	5	Long trips
3	Chevrolet Equinox EV	Best value SUV	Compact SUV	5	Value
4	Kia EV9	Best for families	Large SUV	6 or 7	Big families
5	Hyundai Ioniq 9	Best for comfort	Large SUV	6 or 7	Long family trips
6	Tesla Model 3	Best sedan	Sedan	5	Commuters
7	Nissan Leaf	Best affordable	Compact crossover	5	Tight budgets
8	Ford Mustang Mach-E	Most fun to drive	Compact SUV	5	Driving fun
9	Rivian R1S	Best for adventures	Large SUV	7	Outdoor trips
10	Lucid Air	Best for range	Sedan	5	Long range

Quick answers

How far can an electric car go on a charge?

It depends on the car and version, but many new EVs can go over 250 miles on a full charge in good conditions. Cold weather and fast driving reduce range.

How long does it take to charge an EV?

On a home Level 2 charger, most EVs charge overnight. On a DC fast charger, many can add a lot of range in 20 to 40 minutes.

Can I charge an electric car at home?

Yes. You can use a standard outlet for slow charging, but most owners install a Level 2 charger for faster overnight charging.

How to choose an electric car

Charging at a glance

Charging times depend on the car, the charger and the weather.

Level 1	Level 2	DC fast	NACS
Standard 120V outlet	240V home or public charger	Public fast chargers	Tesla-style plug
Very slow	Overnight	Road trips	Check adapter

1 Work out the range you need

Most people drive far less each day than an EV's range. Think about your longest regular trip, and remember range drops in cold weather and at highway speeds.

2 Plan home charging

Charging at home overnight is the cheapest and easiest option. A Level 2 charger usually needs a 240V circuit, so get a quote from an electrician.

3 Check fast-charging access

Look at the fast chargers on routes you drive often. Many brands now use the NACS plug or an adapter, which opens up Tesla Superchargers.

4 Pick the right size

Bigger EVs need bigger batteries, which adds cost and weight. Choose the size you really need, especially if you need three rows.

5 Check incentives and insurance

The federal tax credit has ended, but some states and utilities still offer rebates. Get an insurance quote too, as EVs can cost more to insure.

6 Test drive and check the warranty

Try the car on roads you know. EV batteries usually have their own warranty, often for 8 years or 100,000 miles, but check the details.

Your checklist

Tick things off as you go.

BEFORE YOU SHOP

- [ ] Note your longest regular trip
- [ ] Check where you'll charge at home
- [ ] Get an electrician's quote for Level 2
- [ ] Set a budget, including insurance

CHARGING CHECKS

- [ ] Which plug does it use (NACS or CCS)?
- [ ] Fast chargers on your usual routes
- [ ] Max fast-charging speed

ON THE TEST DRIVE

- [ ] Check rear seat and trunk space
- [ ] Try the regen braking settings
- [ ] Test the infotainment and app
- [ ] Drive on roads you use every day

BEFORE YOU SIGN

- [ ] Check state and utility incentives
- [ ] Read the battery warranty
- [ ] Get an insurance quote
- [ ] Ask what's included (charger, adapter)

See the full list online

All 10, with pros and cons and who each one suits.

pickwiseguides.com/tech/electric-cars-2026

Open the list