



RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGER GUIDELINES

The purpose of this guideline is to assist permit applicants in streamlining the permitting, installation, and inspection process for Residential EV Chargers.

Be aware that there are different types of Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers. There are 2 basic types of EV chargers for home use (Level 1 and Level 2). Level 1 Chargers are smaller units that plug directly into a standard 120-volt receptacle outlet. These types of chargers typically require a longer amount of time to recharge the vehicle. The receptacle outlet being used to plug-in the Level 1 Charger will need to be on a dedicated circuit and require a permit from the Building and Safety Division. A Level 1 Charger will not require any plans or electrical load calculations unlike the more powerful Level 2 type charging systems.

A Level 2 EV Charging system requires 240 volt and charges the vehicle faster than a Level 1 Charger. Level 2 Chargers installations require permits. To obtain the permit, you will need to provide some basic information to show that your existing electrical service can handle the added load.

What information do I need to provide to obtain the permit? This Residential EV Charger Permit Guideline has been developed to streamline the permit issuance, equipment installation, and inspection process. In most cases, you or your contractor merely need to fill-in the blanks on this document, attach the manufacturer's installation instructions and charger specifications and submit it to the Building and Safety Division for an over-the-counter review and permit issuance. If all the information is provided and the proposal complies with the applicable codes, the review and approval process will only take a few minutes. Once the permit is issued, the installation may begin. When the installation is complete an inspection of the work by a Building Inspector will be required prior to operation and may be requested by the property owner or contractor. Inspections are typically performed on the workday following your request for inspection. Keep in mind that someone will need to be present during the inspection so that the Building Inspector can access the location of the EV Charger (typically in the garage).

Installing a Level 2 EV Charging system often requires changes to building wiring and utility electric services. Before installing charging equipment and associated infrastructure, talk to your EV manufacturer for information about what you need to charge your vehicle.

When installing your EV charger, be sure to use a licensed Electrical contractor whose state contractor's license and insurance are current. The contractor should follow the installation instructions of the EV charger manufacturer and the requirements of California Electrical Code.

Why is the Electric Utility concerned about your EV charger installation? Though an individual Level 2 EV charger may have a negligible impact on the utility electric system, the combined effect of several chargers in the same neighborhood could result in overloads on utility secondary wires and transformers. It is crucial that the Electrical Utility provider be notified of any Level 2 Charging station installations to ensure that utility electrical system components are adequately sized to maintain high levels of service reliability.



LEVEL 2 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER - SERVICE LOAD CALCULATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Review the list of electrical loads in the table below and check (✓) all that exist in the home (don't forget to include the proposed Level 2 EV Charger). For each item checked (✓), fill-in the corresponding "Watts used" (refer to the "Typical Usage" column for wattage information). Add up all the numbers that are written in the "Watts Used" column. Write that number in the "Total Watts Used" box at the bottom of the table and proceed to the next page.

(Loads shown are rough estimates; actual loads may vary – for a more precise analysis, use the nameplate ratings for appliances and other loads and consult with a trained electrical professional.)

✓Check All Applicable Loads	Description of Load	Typical usage	Watts used
GENERAL LIGHTING AND RECEPTACLE OUTLET CIRCUITS			
✓	Multiply the square footage of house X 3	3 watts/sq. ft.	
KITCHEN CIRCUITS			
✓	Small appliance circuits	3,000 watts	3,000
	Electric oven	2,000 watts	
	Electric stove top	5,000 watts	
	Microwave	1,500 watts	
	Garbage disposal under sink	1,000 watts	
	Dishwasher	3,500 watts	
	Garbage compactor	1,000 watts	
	Instantaneous hot water at sink	1,500 watts	
LAUNDRY CIRCUIT			
✓	Laundry circuit	1,500 watts	1,500
	Electric clothes dryer	5,000 watts	
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING CIRCUITS			
	Central heating and air conditioning	6,000 watts	
	Window mounted AC	1,000 watts	
	Whole-house or attic fan	500 watts	
	Central electric furnace	8,000 watts	
	Evaporative cooler	500 watts	
OTHER ELECTRICAL LOADS			
	Electric water heater (storage type)	4,000 watts	
	Electric tankless water heater	15,000 watts	
	Pool or spa equipment	3,500 watts	
	Other:	watts	
	Other:	watts	
	Other:	watts	
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER CIRCUIT			
	Electric Vehicle charger	Greater of 7,200 VA OR nameplate rating	
(Add-up all of the watts for the loads you have checked ✓) TOTAL WATTS USED →			



***Use name plate rating in watts or calculate as: (Ampere rating of circuit X 240 volts = Watts)**

INSTRUCTIONS: Using the **Total Watts Used** number from the previous page, check (✓) the appropriate line in column 1 and follow that line across to determine the minimum required size of the electrical service panel shown in column 3. In column 4, write-in the size of your existing service panel (main breaker size). If your Existing service panel (column 4) is smaller than the minimum required size of the existing service (column 3), then you will need to install a new upgraded electrical service panel to handle the added electrical load from the proposed Level 2 EV Charger.

Table based on CEC 220.83(A), 230.42, and Annex D.

1	2	3	4
✓Check the appropriate line	Total Watts Used (from previous page)	Minimum Required Size of Existing 240 Volt Electrical Service Panel (Main Service Breaker Size)	Identify the Size of Your Existing Main Service Breaker (Amps)**
	up to 48,000	100 amps	
	48,001 to 63,000	125 amps	
	63,001 to 78,000	150 amps	
	78,001 to 108,000	200 amps	
	108,001 to 123,000	225 amps	

Please note that the size of your **Existing service (column 4) MUST be equal to or larger than the Minimum **Required** Size (column 3) or a new larger electrical service panel will need to be installed in order to satisfy the electrical load demand of the EV charger.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

By my signature, I attest that the information provided is true and accurate.

Job Address:					
Signature:		Date			

In addition to this document, you will also need to provide a copy of the manufacturer's installation literature and specifications for the Level 2 Charger you are installing.

Please note that this is a voluntary compliance alternative and you may wish to hire a qualified individual or company to perform a thorough evaluation of your electrical service capacity in lieu of this alternative methodology. Use of this electrical load calculation estimate methodology and forms is at the user's risk and carries no implied guarantee of accuracy. Users of this methodology and these forms are advised to seek professional assistance in determining the electrical capacity of a service panel.



OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR EV CHARGER INSTALLATIONS:

The Table below illustrates the type and size of wire and conduit to be used for various Electric Vehicle Charger circuits.

Size of EV Charger Circuit Breaker	Required minimum size of Conductors (THHN wire)	Conduit Type and Size***		
		Electrical Metallic Tubing (EMT)	Rigid Polyvinyl Chloride Conduit – Schedule 40 (PVC)	Flexible Metal Conduit (FMC)
20 amp	#12	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"
30 amp	#10	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"
40 amp	#8	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"
50 amp	#8	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"
60 amp	#6	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"
70 amp	#4	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"

***Based on 4 wires in the conduit (2-current carrying conductors, 1-grounded conductor, 1-equipment ground).

As an alternate, Nonmetallic Sheathed Cable (aka: Romex Cable or NMC) may be used if it is protected from physical damage by placing the cable inside a wall cavity or attic space which is separated from the occupied space by drywall or plywood.

The Table below illustrates the required supports for various types of electrical conduit or cable.

Conduit Support	Electrical Metallic Tubing (EMT)	Rigid Polyvinyl Chloride Conduit – Schedule 40 (PVC)	Flexible Metal Conduit (FMC)	Nonmetallic Sheathed Cable (NMC)
Conduit Support Intervals	10'	3'	4-1/2'	4-1/2'
Maximum distance from box to conduit support	3'	3'	1'	1'

In addition to the above noted requirements, the California Electrical Code contains many other provisions that may be applicable to the installation of a new electrical circuit. Installers are cautioned to be aware of all applicable requirements before beginning the installation. For additional information or guidance, consult with the Building and Safety Division staff or a qualified and experienced Electrical Contractor.

The overcurrent protection device (circuit breaker) for feeders and branch circuits supplying EVSE, including bidirectional EVSE, and WPTE shall be sized for continuous duty and shall have a rating of not less than 125 percent of the maximum load of the equipment. (CEC Art. 625.41)

Each outlet installed for the purpose of charging electric vehicles shall be supplied by an individual branch circuit. Each circuit shall have no other outlets. (CEC Art. 625.40)

All receptacles installed for the connection of electric vehicle charging shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel. (CEC Art. 625.54)



GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL EV CHARGERS

1. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS** - All Electrical Vehicle Charging Systems shall comply with the applicable sections of the California Electrical Code, including Article 625.
2. **EQUIPMENT HEIGHT** - The coupling means of fastened in place electric vehicle supply equipment shall be stored at a height of 18 inches above the finished floor for interior and 24 inches for exterior installations. (CEC Art 625.50).
3. **LISTED EQUIPMENT** - All electric vehicle supply equipment shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. (CEC Art. 625.5)
4. **FASTENED IN PLACE** - Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment must be permanently connected and fastened in place in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and CEC Art. 625.44 (a) through (c).
5. **PROTECTION FROM PHYSICAL DAMAGE** - Electrical Vehicle Supply Equipment shall be protected against vehicle impact damage when located in the path of a vehicle. To avoid the installation of a substantial pipe bollard as an equipment guard, locate the Electrical Vehicle Supply Equipment on a garage side wall, out of vehicular path. (CEC Art. 110.27(B))
6. **IF MORE THAN 60 AMPS**- When equipment is rated at more than 60 amps, the disconnect means shall be provided and installed in a readily accessible location and shall be capable of being locked on the open position. (CEC Art. 625.43)

SAMPLE ELECTRICAL PLAN FOR LEVEL 2 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER CIRCUIT INSTALLATION

