



Charge Point Etiquette

As more and more EV drivers take to the roads it's worth noting a few do's and don'ts:

1 | Safety First

Practice safe charging. The means properly managing the cord. Neatly wind the cord on its holder and tuck it in so people will not trip on any excess length, or drive over it.

2 | EV Spots for EVs

It's never acceptable for an internal combustion car to park in a spot designated for a plug-in car. That's a firm rule, no matter how crowded a parking lot is, and no matter how infrequently the charging location is used.

3 | Charge Up and Move On

Only occupy a charging spot while your car is being charged. As soon as the charging session is completed—either when your battery is full or when you have adequate range to comfortably reach your destination—be prepared to unplug and move your car as soon as possible, making way for a fellow plug-in driver.

(Many charging networks and car apps can be set to notify you by email or text when your charging session is completed.)

4 | Charge Only When Necessary

Don't charge if you don't need to. Leave the spot free for another EV driver that might need the charge to safely complete his or her daily travels.

5 | Look After the Charging Kit

For the benefit of you, other EV drivers and the charge point you should always leave the chargers tidy. Replace the cable neatly in its holder and don't leave it on the ground.

Charging points are expensive pieces of kit, so please look after them so that everyone can continue to use them for longer and avoid costly repairs.

6 | Don't Unplug Plug-in Hybrids...

An owner of a pure electric car owner, like a Nissan LEAF, does NOT have the right to unplug a plugin hybrid, such as a Chevy Volt—just because that car has a back-up petrol engine.

...Except When Plug-in Hybrid Is Done Charging

The exception to Rule #6—and applicable in fact to any other plug-in car—says that it's OK for one plug-in car owner to unplug another car, if the first car has clearly finished charging. In this event, the driver who makes the switch should leave a note explaining why it was unplugged.

7 | No Nasty Notes

If you need to leave a note - make it a polite one. If the charging spot you counted on using is ICed (the term referring to a charging spot occupied by an internal combustion engine car) by all means, leave a note on the windshield explaining the predicament. The note can be firm, but should be expressed in polite language—in a good-will gesture that will hopefully convince the offender not to make the mistake again.

