

PIVOT TRADE SERVICES

The Melbourne Home EV Charger Buyer's Guide

What a home charger actually costs, how to tell whether you need three phase, and the six questions that separate a real quote from a cheap one.

2026 edition

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5.0 from 63 Google reviews | 0401 500 446 | 1300 748 688

Start here: what you are actually buying

A home EV charger is two purchases pretending to be one. There is the unit on the wall, and there is the electrical work that gets power to it safely. The unit is the part people compare. The electrical work is the part that decides the price.

Two identical chargers on two identical houses can differ by more than a thousand dollars, entirely because of the cable run and the state of the switchboard. That is not a markup. It is the job.

What it costs in Melbourne, 2026

WHAT YOU ARE GETTING	TYPICAL INSTALLED COST
Single phase 7kW charger, switchboard close to the parking space, straightforward run	\$1,200 to \$2,200
Three phase 22kW capable charger, where three phase supply already exists	\$2,500 to \$3,000+
Switchboard upgrade, if the existing board has no spare capacity or no RCD protection	\$800 to \$2,500
Long or difficult cable run, trenching to a detached garage, upper level routing	Quoted after measuring

The one number that matters most: a 7.4kW charger adds roughly 40 to 50km of range per hour. Overnight, that is far more than the average Australian drives in a day. Most households never need more.

Do you need three phase?

Usually not. Three phase doubles or triples the charging speed, but if the car sits in the driveway for ten hours overnight, speed is not the constraint. Three phase earns its cost in three situations, and otherwise it is money spent on a number you never use.

- ☐ Two EVs sharing one charge point, where overnight hours have to be split
- ☐ High daily distance, or a vehicle that comes home nearly empty most days
- ☐ Three phase supply already at the property, which makes the upgrade marginal rather than major

How to check what you have: open the meter box and count the main switches feeding the board. One main switch usually means single phase. Three main switches side by side, or a large main switch marked with three poles, usually means three phase. If you are not sure, photograph it and send it to us rather than guessing.

Choosing the unit

Ignore brand loyalty and start with how you will actually use it. These are the four differences that change the daily experience.

Solar excess charging

If you have solar, a charger that can follow your excess generation and charge only on surplus is the single biggest running cost difference available. It turns an imported unit into a self-consumed one. If you do not have solar and do not plan to, this feature is worth nothing to you.

Tethered or untethered

Tethered means the cable is permanently attached. It is more convenient every single day, and worse if the cable is ever damaged or you change to a car with a different plug. Untethered is tidier and more flexible, and means carrying a cable.

Load management

A charger that can throttle itself when the house draws heavily is often what makes an install possible without a supply upgrade. This is frequently the cheapest way out of a capacity problem.

App and connectivity

Scheduling to off-peak, monitoring, and firmware updates all live here. Check that the app works without a subscription, and that the unit still charges if the wifi drops.

The six questions to ask every quote

- 1 Has the switchboard been inspected, or assumed?** A quote written without opening the board is a guess. Switchboard work is the most common surprise cost.
- 2 What is the cable run, in metres, and what route does it take?** This is the biggest single variable. If nobody measured it, the price can move.
- 3 Is a dedicated circuit and RCD protection included?** Under AS/NZS 3000 an EV charger needs its own circuit with the correct protection. It is not optional.
- 4 Will I receive a Certificate of Electrical Safety?** Prescribed electrical work must be certified. If the answer is vague, walk away.
- 5 Is the price fixed, or an estimate that changes on the day?** Ask for it in writing, with the assumptions listed.
- 6 What is the workmanship warranty, separate from the manufacturer warranty?** These are two different things. Get both in writing.

What we find on real jobs in the west

Across Altona, Point Cook, Werribee, Footscray, Yarraville and the rest of the western suburbs, the same handful of things decide the job.

WHERE	WHAT USUALLY DECIDES THE PRICE
Estate homes: Point Cook, Werribee, Hoppers Crossing, Altona Meadows	Long runs from the meter box to a detached or rear garage. The measurement is the quote.
Terraces and cottages: Footscray, Yarraville, Spotswood, Williamstown	Street parking rather than a driveway, party walls, and no straight cable route. Siting comes before pricing.
Post-war homes: Altona, Newport, Sunshine North, Braybrook	Original switchboards with no spare ways and no RCD protection. Board first, charger second.
Industrial fringe: Laverton, Altona North, Spotswood	Three phase supply is genuinely more available here, so 22kW is sometimes a small step rather than a big one.

Before the electrician arrives

- ☐ Photograph the inside of your meter box and switchboard
- ☐ Decide where the car will actually park, not where it parks today
- ☐ Measure roughly from the meter box to that spot, following walls rather than straight lines
- ☐ Check whether you have solar, and if so what size and what inverter brand
- ☐ Note whether the garage is attached, detached or across a driveway
- ☐ Have your electricity retailer and tariff handy, so off-peak scheduling can be set up properly

Want this priced for your place?

We quote EV charger installations across Melbourne's western suburbs in writing, with the switchboard inspected and the cable route measured before the number is given. No obligation, and no price that moves on the day.

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Costs in this guide are indicative ranges accurate at the time of writing, August 2026, and are replaced by your written quote. Electrical work described here is prescribed work and must be carried out by a licensed electrician. This guide is general information and is not a substitute for an on-site assessment of your property.