Level 3 charging station locations

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Yet, there's one common concern that can diminish the joy of driving an EV: range anxiety. This worry is compounded by the challenge of finding compatible fast chargers that can quickly power up your battery.

Basically, it is when you use a DC fast charger to juice up your electric vehicle. More specifically, unlike Level 1 and 2 stations, which use alternating current (AC) and can take hours to charge your car any significant amount, Level 3 chargers use direct current (DC) and can fill up your battery to 80% in under an hour, the specific time depending on your EV model and the kW speed.

What makes Level 3 charging so fast is its power output; it can deliver anywhere from 50 kW to 350 kW of power. To put that into perspective, a typical Level 2 point might offer between 7 to 19 kW.

Now, you know that a Level 3 charger can fill your EV up quickly, and I'm sure you're raring to go and use one. But don't rush into things because while they are the fastest way to charge, they're also the priciest.

Costs can vary, but you can expect to pay around 70p per kWh on average when using a rapid charger. If your electric vehicle has a 60 kWh battery, you can anticipate about ?42 for a full charge from empty to 100%. This is significantly more expensive than slower Level 2 chargers or charging at home.

With those public prices, you might be thinking, "Surely it'd be easier to just install a Level 3 charger in my home?" Unless you have a spare ?20,000 to ?50,000 lying around, we wouldn't recommend it. That's right; a Level 3 home charge can cost as much as a brand-new EV.

Well, installing a Level 3 charger at home isn't as simple as plugging in the kettle. You'll need a dedicated high-voltage supply, which means upgrading your home's electrical system. Then you need the station itself. It's just not a feasible option for most drivers.

On top of that, most residential areas in the UK don't have the electrical capacity to support this level of charging. Level 3 chargers require a three-phase power supply, which is more commonly found in commercial and industrial areas. So, even if you're willing to splash the cash, you might not be able to get the necessary permissions and upgrades.

If you're looking for a home charging spot, Level 2 stations are the way to go. They're cheaper, costing around ?500 to ?1,500, and they can be easily placed in most homes with a driveway. However, for homeowners that don"t have a driveway, check out our guide on "How to Charge Electric Cars Without a Driveway".

Sure, Level 2 chargers take a bit longer to power your EV, but they're still a convenient and cost-effective solution for everyday use. Besides, you can always use the Level 3 public charging stations if you're looking for a quick burst of energy every now and then.

How easy it'll be for you to use a Level 3 charging point depends on where exactly you live; some locations are flush with options, while some regions might have just the odd chargers here and there. However, regardless of which area you live in, the basic idea of finding a DC point remains the same.

First and foremost, let's talk about apps and websites. There are plenty of these dedicated to helping drivers find EV charging points like ZapMap. With these, you just enter your location, put in a few filters, and voila! You'll see a list of nearby chargers, complete with information on charger speed and even some photos. There's also Google Maps, which isn't as comprehensive but is incredibly easy to use.

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