



# Buying a Used EV Guide



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# OVERVIEW



The used EV inventory is expanding quickly as millions of vehicle leases end, making now an excellent time to explore the benefits of buying pre-owned EVs. Used EVs often cost the same as or less than gasoline equivalents, allowing owners to realize immediate savings on fuel and maintenance. Furthermore, used EVs finishing their lease terms generally have fewer than 40,000 miles and are likely still covered by substantial portions of the original manufacturers' warranties, making them a cost-effective and reliable option. Below is a set of guiding questions—and why they matter—to consider or ask your dealership when exploring used EVs.

Note: This list is comprehensive but personal research is needed to be done on your own. Additionally, while this list is tailored for buying from a dealership, it is a valuable resource for the private EV market, where verifying vehicle history becomes solely the buyer's responsibility.

# USED EV GUIDE CHECKLIST

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## Charging & Infrastructure

- What types of charging ports does it have? Are the original charging cables or adapters included?**

These are essential for home charging and accessing different public charging stations. Different ports determine which public stations you can use.
- Which charging network is the vehicle compatible with (e.g., Tesla, Supercharger, Electrify America, ChargePoint, etc.)?**

Confirming compatibility ensures reliable access to charging infrastructure for daily use and road trips.
- What is the maximum charge rate? Can your dealership provide a detailed charging history?**

This affects how long you wait to charge. Frequent use of DC Fast charging can degrade the battery more than Level 2 charging.
- Are the navigation and charging-network services currently active, and what is the cost to transition/renew the subscription?**

Many EV manufacturers require active subscriptions. Confirm who pays for activation and the ongoing costs.

## Battery Health & Warranty

- Has the battery ever been serviced or replaced?**

If the battery was replaced, this can mean a newer, healthier battery.
- What is the State of Health percentage of the battery?**

The remaining battery capacity impacts the vehicle's driving range compared to when it was new.
- What is the remaining battery warranty? Is the warranty transferable to a second owner? When does the warranty expire?**

Battery replacement is one of the most costly potential repairs. Confirm the warranty and remaining years.
- What is the remaining factory warranty, drivetrain warranty, and bumper-to-bumper coverage and are they transferable?**

These warranties protect you from costly repairs on major components like brakes, motors, mechanical components, etc.

## Basic Vehicle Condition & History

- What is the overall vehicle service and maintenance history?**  
While EVs require less maintenance than gas cars, consistent records can indicate a well-cared-for vehicle.
- What is the current odometer reading (mileage) and does it align with the vehicle's age and service records?**  
While mileage does not affect the electric motor, it indicates wear on components like tires, suspension, and interior upholstery.
- Has the vehicle received all of its required software updates and recalls?**  
Software updates often add features and improve performance.
- What is the tread life remaining on the tires?**  
EVs are heavy and accelerate quickly, wearing down tires. New tires can be costly.
- Does the vehicle support one-pedal driving with regenerative braking, and are the regenerative braking intensity levels adjustable?**  
One pedal driving is a key feature that uses the motor to capture energy and recharge the battery, extending range and reducing wear on the physical brakes.
- If applicable, when were the physical brake pads and rotors last serviced or inspected?**  
While regenerative braking makes pads last longer, the physical brakes are used less often and can be susceptible to rust, which requires periodic maintenance.
- Do the A/C and heating systems work effectively?**  
Heating and cooling draw significant power and directly impact range.
- Is there a service center or auto shop nearby specializing in this EV make/model, or EVs generally?**  
Some brands and models can only be serviced at a few locations. Confirming local support prevents future headaches.

## Financial Incentives

- Does this vehicle qualify for Vehicle Exchange Colorado used vehicle incentives?**  
Used EVs must meet specific prices and buyer requirements to qualify for potential incentives. Incentives can save buyers thousands.
- Is your local dealership offering any incentives for the EVs or charging that are not connected to state or federal funding?**  
Some dealerships have complementary charging or service packages that can alleviate costs.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Vehicle Resources

### Recurrent Auto

Provides easy-to-read battery health reports that show how much range and performance a used EV has left, including how it performs in hot or cold weather. Uses real-world data from thousands of EVs to help buyers feel confident about battery condition.

### Vehicle Exchange Colorado (VXC)

A Colorado program that helps income-qualified residents trade in older, gas-powered vehicles for a point-of-sale rebate of up to \$6,000 on a used electric vehicle and \$9,000 a new electric vehicle. The discount is applied directly at the dealership to make EVs more affordable upfront.

### Colorado EV Tax Credit

Colorado offers state tax credits that can significantly reduce the cost of purchasing a new electric vehicle. These savings are often applied at or shortly after purchase.

### Drive Clean Colorado EV Consumer Resources

Offers practical guides on EV charging, clear answers to common EV myths, and tools to find local rebates, incentives, and test-drive opportunities across Colorado.

## Charging Resources

### Charging Station Apps

Charging apps help you find nearby stations, check availability, pay for charging, and plan routes. Many include real-time updates and user reviews so you can avoid broken or busy chargers and travel with confidence. Apps include [PlugShare](#), [ChargePoint](#), [Electrify America](#), [EVgo](#), and more.

### The Ultimate Guide to EV Road Trip Planning

EV road trip guides use your vehicle's range and charging needs to map the best routes and charging stops. They estimate charging time and account for factors like weather and terrain to make long trips predictable and stress-free.



## ASK FOR HELP: COACHING



Buying a used electric vehicle (EV) involves several important considerations—from battery health and range to incentives, rebates, and local resources. ReCharge Coaches at the Colorado Energy Office are available to provide guidance on choosing the right EV, understanding total costs, and accessing state and utility incentives. They can also connect you with trusted dealerships, battery assessment tools, and other industry professionals who make the used EV buying process easier.

Colorado's ReCharge Coaches provide coaching services for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in every county. Connect with your region's ReCharge Coach to get support on identifying grant and funding opportunities.

Visit the ReCharge Colorado Website for Contact Info:

<https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/transportation/ev-education-resources/recharge-colorado>

