

Warwickshire County Council

Use of cable protectors for electric vehicle charging

Guidance for Residents

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) wants to lead on tackling climate change. One of the ways we can do this is encourage a switch away from fossil-fuel powered transport to more sustainable travel options. In particular, electric vehicles (EV) can make an important contribution to this move towards greener transport choices and WCC recognises the significant benefits of doing so, particularly in relation to air quality, public health and reducing carbon.

EV usage is increasing year on year and the county council is working hard to provide more publicly available charging infrastructure and to make it as convenient and attractive as possible to switch over to EVs.

However, WCC recognises that many Warwickshire residents live in houses which do not have off-street parking. This guidance has been produced to aid residents for whom off street parking is not available but wish to drive an EV and charge their vehicle close to their home.

Anyone wishing to install a private residential charging point should satisfy themselves, by contacting their local planning authority at the district or borough council, that they have complied with all relevant planning conditions before doing so.

Before charging, you should refer to your vehicle's handbook and any instructions for the use of cables, including extension cables, and, if necessary, seek advice from a qualified electrician before charging an electric vehicle.

Charging cables may be placed across footways **only** if they are housed in appropriate cable protectors. It is important to consider public safety and existing legislation when placing the cable from the power supply in your home to your vehicle. **Any legal liability arising from the placement of the cable or protector is your responsibility.** You may wish to speak to your home insurer to confirm that your home insurance policy covers any situation arising from use of

It is the responsibility of the person charging the vehicle to adhere to any parking restrictions that may be in place and to avoid obstructing the footway or any accesses. This guidance is intended to help residents make informed decisions about how they can charge a vehicle in these locations. It is the responsibility of the person charging the vehicle to avoid putting themselves and others at risk when trailing a cable across a footway or an area people may cross.

Parking your vehicle for charging

Vehicles should be parked as close to the property as possible. Where a vehicle cannot be parked immediately outside the property, the cable should be run along the carriageway channel against the kerb. The recommended maximum distance from a point outside the property is 10 metres (approximately 2 car lengths).

The cable should not cross the carriageway. Your vehicle should always be parked on the same side of the road as your property.

Any vehicle parked on the highway must always adhere to any local parking restrictions that may be in place and should not obstruct the footway.

Charging your vehicle

Whenever you are charging your vehicle, you should always follow all guidance and recommendations in your manufacturer's handbook (this may differ depending on the vehicle).

Any extension lead that is required should be suitable for external use. You should read any instructions on the correct use provided with your extension lead.

Cables should be laid flat and never be extended from an upper storey to a vehicle, nor should they be hung from any street furniture including lamp columns or trees.

A cable should only be placed over the footway when the vehicle is charging and **should always be removed** when not in use.

It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that the cable does not cause a danger or nuisance to the public.



Cables should be laid flat so that they do not cause a danger or nuisance to the public. The cable use shown above is not an acceptable way to charge an EV.

Using a cable protector

The most appropriate solution for getting the cable from your property boundary to your vehicle safely is to use a suitable cable protector. Cable protectors are regularly used in public spaces and areas of high footfall to cover cables or wires on a temporary basis.

Any cable protector used should cover the area likely to be walked across, including the full width of any footway and verge between the property and the vehicle.

The cable protector should be non-slip, have contrasting colour markings e.g. yellow and black, have anti-trip sloped sides, and be of a tough construction suitable for outdoor use.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the cable protector is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and that it is suitable for outdoor use and durable. You should remove any cable protector as soon as charging has finished.



Cable protectors should be visible, durable and laid across the footway as shown

Cable licensing

Currently an EV charging cable does not require a licence. However, as policies are reviewed and updated this may change in the future.

Although no licence is currently required, where a location is not suitable then the County Council has existing powers under Section 162 of the Highways Act to seek to have the cable removed. We reserve the right to require inappropriately used cables or those which cause obstruction to be removed.

A licence is required for all other temporary placement of cabling on or over the Highway.