

# Your Guide to Buying a Used Electric Vehicle

## 💡 2026 Is the Best Year Yet to Buy a Used EV!

- ✓ Over 400,000 off-lease EVs are flooding the market, creating historic buyer opportunities
- ✓ Many used EVs with 200+ miles of range now available for \$15,000–\$25,000
- ✓ Save 30–40% on maintenance vs. gas cars and pay ~4¢/mile for electricity at home
- ✓ Battery technology has proven far more durable than early industry projections

## Finding Used EVs

### 🔍 Research & Comparison Websites

- **AutoTempest** — Search aggregator (searches Cars.com, Autotrader, CarGurus, TrueCar, eBay Motors & more in one place!) <https://www.autotempest.com>
- Cars.com — Filter by electric, location, price; read owner reviews
- Autotrader.com — Extensive filters for EV range, features, and dealer vs. private party
- Edmunds.com — Expert reviews, true cost to own data, and local inventory search
- Recurrent Auto (recurrentauto.com) — Compare models' real-life efficiency and hot & cold-weather range

### 🛒 Online Shopping & Delivery Services

- **Carvana** <https://www.carvana.com> Delivery to your door. 7-day return policy. Large used EV selection.
- **CarMax** <https://www.carmax.com> Test drive in person. 30-day warranty included.

## Best-Value Used EVs — March 2026 Pricing

Prices reflect typical retail asking prices for clean-title vehicles in good condition. Your local market may vary.

Vehicle	Range (EPA)	Used Price	Notes
Chevrolet Bolt EV/EUV (2020–2023)	200–259 mi	\$10,000–\$18,000	Incredible value; confirm recall battery replacement was done
Nissan LEAF (2018–2024)	150–226 mi	\$8,000–\$16,000	Very affordable; no active thermal management (check battery health)
Tesla Model 3 (2019–2023)	250–358 mi	\$20,000–\$28,000	Access all Superchargers; strong resale; OTA updates
Tesla Model Y (2020–2023)	260–330 mi	\$24,000–\$32,000	Access all Superchargers; roomy; fast charging; efficient; OTA updates; holds value better than most
Hyundai Kona Electric (2019–2023)	258 mi	\$15,000–\$22,000	Efficient; 10-yr/100K battery warranty
Kia Niro EV (2019–2023)	239–253 mi	\$16,000–\$23,000	Roomy, practical crossover; excellent warranty
Kia EV6 (2022–2023)	232–310 mi	\$20,000–\$28,000	800V fast charging; sporty handling, excellent warranty
Ford Mustang Mach-E (2021–2023)	224–312 mi	\$22,000–\$32,000	Fun to drive; spacious; BlueCruise available
Hyundai Ioniq 5 (2022–2025)	245–303 mi	\$20,000–\$30,000	800v fast charging; roomy; excellent warranty
Hyundai Ioniq 6 (2023–2025)	270–361 mi	\$18,000–\$26,000	800v fast charging; excellent warranty, best-in-class range/efficiency; sleek; depreciation → great deals
Chevrolet Blazer EV (2024)	~280 mi	\$25,000–\$30,000	Off-lease deals arriving now; comfortable SUV
Volkswagen ID.4 (2021–2023)	209–275 mi	\$16,000–\$24,000	Roomy interior; good ride quality; CCS fast charging
Polestar 2 (2021–2024)	249–300 mi	\$20,000–\$28,000	Premium Volvo DNA; Google built-in; sporty handling; huge depreciation

## How Well Do Used EV Batteries Age?

One of the biggest concerns for used EV shoppers is battery health. The great news: real-world data from hundreds of thousands of vehicles shows EV batteries are lasting far longer than early industry projections.

### What the Data Shows

- A 3%-5% range drop in the first few years is common, then a long stable plateau down to about 90% at 100k miles and 80%-85% at 200k miles. Most EVs on the road are in this stable phase. Off-lease EVs (2–4 years old) typically retain 95%+ of their original range.
- Cox Automotive tested nearly 80,000 used EVs and found an average battery health score of 92%.

### Tips for Evaluating a Used EV Battery

- Check the number of years and miles remaining on the manufacturer's battery warranty. Federal law requires all EVs to carry a minimum 8-year / 100,000-mile battery warranty — and many manufacturers (Hyundai, Kia, Rivian, Tesla, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota) exceed this.
- Look for a battery health score in the listing or ask the seller to disclose battery health. [Recurrent Auto](#), [Voltest](#), and auto auction wholesaler Manheim provide battery health measures for sellers.
- Nissan Leaf EVs pre-2026 model year had less-effective battery cooling. Ask the seller the number of bars shown on the car's battery health meter (max 12).
- Some Tesla Model 3 RWD, Ford Mustang Mach-E SR, and Rivian R1T Standard models use a more durable battery chemistry called LFP (lithium iron phosphate) with a different recommended charging pattern. (If you buy an LFP EV, charge to 100% at least once a month; wait until below 50% to charge if convenient.) Vehicles with LFP are too new to have as much real-world longevity data, but they are expected to have on average *less* degradation and are more likely to have second-life application beyond the lifetime of the vehicle.

## EV Maintenance: Simpler, Cheaper, Less Hassle

Electric vehicles have dramatically fewer moving parts than gas cars — roughly 20 vs. 2,000+ in a combustion engine. That translates directly into lower maintenance costs and fewer trips to the shop.

Service Item	Gas Vehicle	Electric Vehicle
Oil changes	Every 5,000–7,500 mi (~\$60–85 each)	NOT NEEDED
Brake pads	Every 30,000–70,000 mi	Last 100,000+ mi (regen braking)
Transmission service	Every 30,000–60,000 mi	NOT NEEDED (single-speed)
Spark plugs	Every 30,000–100,000 mi	NOT NEEDED
Exhaust system	Repairs as needed	NOT NEEDED
Tire rotation	Every 5,000–7,500 mi	Every 5,000–7,500 mi
Cabin air filter	Every 15,000–30,000 mi	Every 15,000–30,000 mi
Annual maintenance cost	~\$900–\$1,800/yr	~\$150–\$300/yr

### Bottom Line: Savings Add Up Fast

- ✓ EV maintenance averages ~6¢/mile vs. ~10¢/mile for gas vehicles (U.S. DOE)
- ✓ Home charging costs roughly 3–5¢ per mile vs. 10–15¢/mile for gasoline
- ✓ Over 10 years, expect to save \$2,500–\$3,500+ on maintenance alone — plus thousands more on fuel