



## ELECTRIC VEHICLES 101

# Maintaining Your Vehicle



When it comes to maintaining an EV, there is lots of good news. Because EVs have approximately 20 drivetrain components compared to 2,000 in an internal combustion engine (ICE), there are fewer moving parts to maintain. For drivers, there are less appointments to make for servicing – a convenience that may offset any charging inconvenience. And the cost to maintain an EV is approximately one third less than the cost of maintaining an internal combustion (ICE) vehicle. But EVs are still complex machines that require service and maintenance. Here is what you should keep in mind.

- **Your vehicle service guide:** It is important to follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule. Regular maintenance includes checking fluids, changing filters, monitoring brake wear, and other vehicle systems.
- **Charging:** Keeping your vehicle charged fully and regularly is an important part of preserving battery life. Some vehicles do not always charge to 100% which is by design. It is also important to not overcharge your battery so avoid leaving the vehicle plugged in once it is charged.
- **Tires:** Always check your tire pressure and make sure your tires are properly inflated and regularly rotated. Tires may wear more quickly on EVs because of the weight of the battery. If your car is pulling to one side or the other, you may need a wheel alignment. Tire rotation is also essential to preserve longevity.
- **Battery:** Batteries are susceptible to extreme temperatures. EV batteries and other critical electrical components need to be kept cool so make sure that you park in the shade or garage and check the coolant levels regularly.
- **Brakes:** EVs use regenerative braking so you may experience less wear and tear on your brake pads. But they will eventually wear and require replacement, so it is important to have them checked regularly.
- **Treat your EV Well:** All the recommendations for how to drive an ICE vehicle apply to an EV. Avoid harsh braking, rapid acceleration, and other aggressive behaviors as they will impact your battery life and range.
- **Hybrids and Plug-in Hybrids:** These vehicles do have an internal combustion drivetrain as well and require maintenance like other ICE vehicles. But, with regenerative braking, brake rotors and brake pads can last longer.

EVs do take a little time to get used to, but they offer so many advantages including less maintenance as well as reduced carbon emissions. We hope you enjoy the experience of driving an EV.

