

### Landscaping ideas

Whether railings, a brick or stone wall, or a picket fence, the choice of material to mark the boundary between your home and the street should be guided by the local vernacular. If the front garden is big, it's worth employing a landscaping expert to enhance it with ideas for hard surfacing and planting. Check they're accredited with the Association of Professional Landscapers ([landscaper.org.uk](http://landscaper.org.uk)), the British Association of Landscape Industries ([bali.org.uk](http://bali.org.uk)), or the Society of Garden Designers ([sgd.org.uk](http://sgd.org.uk)). **GD**



**ABOVE** Space & Style Home Design extended a small pre-war bungalow in Fareham, Hampshire, up and outwards for £230,000 and it now has three bedrooms. Big gables, an open porch, a widened entrance, cladding and self-coloured render give the building a New England look. Window and door openings were adjusted to suit the new design.



### CHARGING AHEAD

Advice on installing an electric car charger from **James McKemey**, head of insights at **Pod Point** ([pod-point.com](http://pod-point.com))

- There are two types of car AC sockets, Type 1 and (more common) Type 2. The option is then a charger with a tethered cable or with a universal socket that any electric car can plug into with a separate cable. Tethered units are more convenient, but only work with one connector type while universal sockets are neater when not in use.

- Though most drivers choose a 7kW charger for the faster charging speed, not having sufficient capacity to operate a 7kW home charger is quite common, in which case a 3.7kW charger may be installed.

- Some providers offer chargers with load balancing that monitor your home's electrical consumption and ensure it never exceeds a safe level. This means 7kW units can be installed in most homes.

- A reputable provider should offer a warranty on the chargepoint and installation. Take a look at your electricity tariff once you understand how your usage has changed to ensure you're getting a good deal. You may need to notify your DNO (Distribution Network Operator), but your chargepoint provider should help with this.

- Installation is like having minor building works. An installer must run a cable from the power supply (usually where your electricity meter is) to where the chargepoint is to be installed, and attach the chargepoint in that location. Between the two the cabling must be secured.

- The nearer the chargepoint to the available supply, the easier and cheaper the installation. The orientation of your car and its socket position must be considered, as well as ensuring the cable does not foul a path or public right of way.

- The Olev Grant, specifically the Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS), provides up to £350 off the cost of buying and installing a home charging point.