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## No shortcuts with home chargers

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## EV owners must use qualified contractors to ensure safe installation

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**PETALING JAYA:** Home electric vehicle (EV) charger installations should only be carried out by professionals registered with the Energy Commission, as improper electrical work can expose homeowners to fire hazards and damage to household wiring, say industry players.

The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia (Teeam) stressed that installations must be handled by a registered electrical contractor.

“This is not optional but mandatory. Homeowners should never attempt make-shift installations or tamper with equipment,” it said when contacted.

Engaging unqualified contractors, it warned, poses serious risks, including electric shocks, fires, and damage to both EVs and home electrical systems. Such incidents could also complicate insurance claims.

“Upon installation, the contractor must test the entire system, configure charging limits and ensure all safety features are functioning properly,” it said, adding that the contractor is also required to register the installation with the Energy Commission and submit the necessary documentation.

“Homeowners should keep copies of

these documents and the test report for their records.”

Teeam said contractors should also assess the condition of the main fuse, distribution board, and Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) supply lines, especially in older neighbourhoods with overhead cables.

Issues such as ageing wiring, corroded connections or shared electrical supply with neighbouring homes could make EV charging unsafe, it noted.

Another key consideration is whether the EV requires a single-phase or three-phase charger.

“This determines the type of electrical supply needed,” it said.

Contractors must also evaluate the total power consumption of existing household appliances, including air conditioners, water heaters and lighting, to ensure there is sufficient capacity for the charger.

Teeam added that EV chargers must have a dedicated circuit connected directly to the main distribution board.

“This circuit must include overcurrent protection via a miniature circuit breaker and residual current protection through a residual current device to safeguard users,” it said.

The association also reminded EV owners about tax relief of up to RM2,500 for EV charging equipment purchases, including wallboxes and installation costs.