

KNOW YOUR E-BIKES



→ Did you know?

Only some e-bikes are road legal

The official term for a legal e-bike is an EAPC (Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle).

What makes a legal e-bike?

- A maximum continuous power output of no more than 250 Watts.
- A motor that may only provide assistance while the rider is pedalling.
- The motor may not provide assistance over 15.5mph.
- Must be fitted with a plate showing manufacturer, maximum speed and maximum continuous power output.
- May only be ridden by persons aged 14 years and over.

The safety advice for traditional bicycles also applies to EAPCs, this means riding in a position that helps drivers see you, wearing a helmet and using lights and reflectors in low light conditions.

Don't block your exit when charging e-bike batteries. Store them in a shed or garage where possible. Keep an eye out for warning signs that your battery might be failing and becoming a fire risk.

→ An unsafe, illegal e-bike



Non-road-legal e-bikes often have power outputs of 500-1,000 watts, propelling riders to maximum speeds in the range of 25-45mph, without pedalling. These include imported complete bikes and kits for converting standard bikes.

While they may look like normal bicycles, these are classed as electric mopeds. However, these bikes are not constructed to a standard where they could obtain MOT or insurance, so it is not possible to make them road legal.

→ Know your e-facts

Non-road-legal e-bikes pose additional risks:

- Capable of speeds in excess of those attained by standard pedal cycles.
- These speeds are normally only experienced on two wheels by motorcyclists, who wear full crash helmets and (should) also wear protective gloves, boots, trousers and jackets.
- Handling, grip and braking of the bike is inadequate to cope with the power of the motor.



**VISION
ZERO**
NO ROAD DEATHS

KNOW YOUR E-SCOOTERS



→ *Did you know?*

It is illegal to ride a private e-scooter on a public road or pavement

What is an e-scooter?

Electrically powered scooters are classed as a mechanically propelled vehicle, which means the same rules apply to e-scooters as other motor vehicles. These rules also apply to other personal electric transporters, with the exception of mobility scooters.

Electric scooters are treated the same as any other motorised vehicle, this means they must have MOT, Vehicle Excise Duty ("tax") and insurance.

→ **Know your e-facts**

In order to obtain an MOT and insurance to be used legally in public, an e-scooter must be approved by the Vehicle Certification Agency for its construction and use for transport on the public highway. No such approval exists for privately owned e-scooters.

If you are using a private e-scooter on public roads, or footways, the police can seize it and you could be liable for prosecution for traffic offences, and even receive points on your licence.

Risks include:

- Lack of maintenance affecting braking and tyre performance.
- Charging of devices in the home introduces fire risk, especially if batteries have become damaged or wet.
- Scooters can easily over balance on bumps or holes due to their small wheels.
- Handling can be unpredictable, especially when reacting to hazards.
- There can be a temptation to ride while intoxicated or distracted.

→ **How to ride legally**

A number of rental schemes have been set up in towns and cities in the UK, including Basildon, Chelmsford, Braintree and Colchester in Essex. These schemes allow people to use rented e-scooters legally.

To use these schemes, you must:

- Be aged 18 or over.
- Hold a UK driving licence.
- Only ride on roads and cycle-paths within the hire scheme areas, pavement riding is not permitted.
- Not carry passengers or allow others to use a scooter you have hired.

Wearing a helmet is highly recommended, and riders have the same responsibility to obey traffic laws as anyone driving a car.



➔ **E-scooters are motor vehicles, so must not be used by children.**