



Liverpool  
City Council

# The law surrounding

e scooters  
&  
e bikes

[liverpool.gov.uk/roadsafety](https://liverpool.gov.uk/roadsafety)

# Electric Scooters

## What is the law?

In the UK, whilst you can legally purchase an e-scooter, unless it is one of the orange Voi trial scooters, it remains illegal to ride one on the public highway/footway, or public parks, bridleways and byways. The only place you can legally use an e-scooter is on private land with the landowner's permission.

## Why can't I use an e-scooter on the public highway?

The reason is that e-scooters are treated as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) by the Department of Transport and therefore:

- E-scooters are subject to the same legal requirement as other motor vehicles
- You require an MOT, a driving licence, tax and insurance
- E-scooters would require number plates, signalling ability & visible rear lights

## What about the orange Voi hire scooters?

Liverpool is currently taking part in Government trials for e-scooter hire. To use them you must:

- Be over 18 years of age
- Hold a valid driving licence

## What happens if I am caught?

The police can issue a warning to riders using an e-scooter illegally. However, depending upon the seriousness of the offence, officers also have the power to seize e-scooters and penalise the rider by issuing a:

- Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance with a £300 fine and 6 penalty points
- Fixed Penalty Notice for no driving licence, up to a £100 fine and 3 to 6 penalty points

Other offences resulting in penalties include riding on the footpath, using a mobile phone, riding through red lights and drink drive offences.

# Electric bikes

## What is an Electric Bike (e-bike)?

An e-bike is a motor assisted pedal bike. They often look just like a conventional pedal cycle, but include a rechargeable battery and a motor, alleviating some of the pressure of pedalling. Once it reaches a top speed of 15.5mph, the motor cuts out and leaves the rest to the cyclist. This means that the cyclist can cycle faster than 15.5mph, but not with the help of the motor.

## What is the law?

For an e-bike to be legal in the UK, it must:

- Come with a pedal-assist motor and have a max power output of 250 watts
- The electrical assistance must cut off when it reaches 15.5mph
- It cannot be ridden on the public highway by anyone under the age of 14

## What if my e-bike exceeds 250 watts and has a motor independent of the pedals?

It is not illegal to own an e-bike exceeding 250 watts and with the motor independent of the pedals, however:

- It is illegal to ride it as a standard bike or e-bike
- It needs to be registered, taxed, and insured as per a moped
- The rider must wear a helmet



## Electric bikes and scooter safety

### Top tips to keep you safe

- Do not charge e-bike or e-scooter batteries unsupervised, or whilst asleep
- If you do need to charge at home overnight, CLOSE all internal doors
- Make sure smoke alarms are fitted, working and tested regularly
- Damaged or broken battery packs must be replaced, don't use or charge them

