



E-Bikes and Scooters FAQ

AAA created a free E-Ride Safety Guide at sm.AAA/ERideReady to help families make safe and informed decisions regarding e-bikes and scooters.

What should parents know about e-bikes and e-scooters?

Quick Answer: E-bikes and e-scooters can be fun and convenient, but they are not toys. Many models accelerate quickly, are heavier, and travel faster than traditional bicycles, and require judgment, balance, and traffic awareness.

Parents should know the device's top speed, the classes of e-bikes and scooters, how to choose the right helmet, check local laws that include where to ride, and set clear riding rules before a child rides.

AAA created the E-Ride Ready campaign to help families understand the risks and make safer choices before serious injuries happen. The free [E-Ride Safety Guide](https://sm.AAA/ERideReady) gives parents practical guidance on device selection, helmet use, supervision, and safe places to ride.

Where can I find information about E-Bikes for kids?

AAA has a free [E-Ride Safety Guide](https://sm.AAA/ERideReady) at sm.AAA/ERideReady. The guide helps parents and guardians understand e-bike and e-scooter safety, including device selection, helmet use, supervision, and safe riding locations.

Are e-bikes and e-scooters safe for kids?

Quick Answer: E-bikes and e-scooters can be safe for kids when the device matches the child's age, skill level and riding environment, but they can carry real risks if they are too fast, too heavy or used around traffic.

E-bikes and e-scooters can carry real risks for children and teens, especially when a device is too fast, too heavy, or used in areas with traffic. Many models accelerate quickly and can reach speeds that leave young riders less time to brake, steer, or react.

Parents should match the device to the child's age, experience, judgment, and riding environment. They should also require a properly fitted helmet, start at lower speeds, and set clear rules for where and how the child can ride.

AAA has a free E-Ride Safety Guide at sm.AAA/ERideReady that can help parents navigate this topic.

What is the biggest misconception about e-bikes and e-scooters?

Quick Answer: The biggest misconception is that e-bikes and e-scooters are just like regular bicycles or toys, when many models are faster, heavier and harder for young riders to control.

The biggest misconception is that e-bikes and e-scooters are just like regular bicycles or toys. Many models go faster, accelerate more quickly, and weigh more than traditional bikes or scooters. That can make them harder for children to control and can increase the force of a crash.

A simple rule for parents: do not judge an e-ride by how it looks. Check the top speed, motor power, weight, braking system, and whether the device fits your child's skill level.

How common are e-bike and e-scooter injuries?

Quick Answer: E-bike and e-scooter injuries have increased significantly as micromobility use has grown, with CPSC estimating emergency-department visits tied to micromobility products rose from 37,300 in 2017 to 149,100 in 2024.

The [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) estimates emergency-department visits tied to micromobility products rose from an estimated 37,300 in 2017 to 149,100 in 2024. According to CPSC estimates, there were 698,500 visits and more than 500 deaths during that eight-year period.

AAA notes that micromobility crashes are likely underreported because there is no single, centralized tracking system. Hospitals and law enforcement agencies may also categorize these crashes differently.

What injuries can happen in e-bike and e-scooter crashes

Quick Answer: E-bike and e-scooter crashes can cause head injuries, concussions, broken bones, facial injuries, road rash and other high-impact trauma, especially when riders travel too fast or do not wear the right helmet.

[Common injuries](#) include head injuries, concussions, broken bones, facial injuries, road rash, and high-impact trauma from collisions with vehicles or fixed objects. Head, neck, and spinal trauma are among the top concerns, especially when riders crash at higher speeds or ride without the right helmet.

Risk increases when riders travel faster than their skill level, ride in groups, panic during sudden acceleration or hard braking, or use a helmet that does not match the device's speed.

How fast do e-bikes and e-scooters go?

Speeds vary by device, model, setting, and terrain. Many e-scooters travel about 15 to 20 mph, though some models can exceed that range. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes assist up to 20 mph, while Class 3 e-bikes assist up to 28 mph.

Parents should check the device's real-world top speed, not just the marketing label. Faster devices give children less time to react and can increase crash severity.

What are e-bike classes?

Many states use a three-class system for e-bikes:

- Class 1: Pedal-assist e-bike that assists up to 20 mph
- Class 2: Throttle-capable e-bike that can reach 20 mph
- Class 3: Pedal-assist e-bike that can reach 28 mph

These classes typically use a maximum motor power of 750 watts, or 1 horsepower.

Some e-bikes can be modified to go faster. If a device exceeds e-bike speed or motor-power limits, it may fall under different rules and may require licensing, registration, or insurance when used on public roads.

What are e-motos, and why should parents pay attention?

Quick Answer: E-motos are higher-speed electric devices that may look like e-bikes but operate more like motorcycles or dirt bikes, which means they may follow different safety rules, age requirements, licensing, registration or insurance requirements.

Some products look like e-bikes but operate more like motorcycles or dirt bikes. These higher-speed devices may travel far above typical e-bike speeds, sometimes up to 60 mph, and may exceed the 750-watt limit used in common e-bike classifications.

This matters because a device that exceeds e-bike definitions may follow different rules. Depending on state or local law, it may require licensing, registration, or insurance if operated on public roads. Parents should be cautious of devices marketed as e-bikes if the speed or power level suggests otherwise.

What is an e-moto? Are e-motos the same as e-bikes?

Quick Answer: An e-moto is not the same as a traditional e-bike; it is a higher-speed electric-powered device that may resemble an e-bike but operate more like a motorcycle or dirt bike.

An e-moto is a higher-speed electric-powered device that may resemble an e-bike but operates more like a motorcycle or dirt bike. Some models can reach speeds far above traditional e-bikes and may exceed the 750-watt power limit associated with common e-bike classifications. Because of their speed and performance, e-motos are often subject to different laws and safety considerations than traditional e-bikes and e-scooters.

Do I need insurance if I get my teen an e-moto?

Quick Answer: Possibly. If an e-moto exceeds common e-bike classifications based on speed or motor power, it may be treated more like a moped, motorcycle or dirt bike and may require registration, licensing or insurance depending on state law.

It depends on the device and your state's laws. Some products marketed as e-bikes are actually higher-speed devices that function more like mopeds, motorcycles, or dirt bikes. If an e-moto exceeds common e-bike classifications based on speed or motor power, it may be subject to different regulations, including registration, licensing, and insurance requirements when operated on public roads. Families should review their state's requirements and speak with their insurance provider to understand what coverage may be needed.

How old does my child have to be to have an e-moto?

Quick Answer: The minimum age for an e-moto depends on state and local law, as well as how the device is classified, so parents should check local requirements before allowing a child to ride.

The minimum age varies by state and by how the device is classified. Many states have age restrictions for higher-speed vehicles, and some Class 3 e-bikes require riders to be at least 16 years old. Because e-motos often exceed traditional e-bike definitions, they may be subject to different age requirements. Parents should check their state and local laws before purchasing or allowing a child to operate an e-moto.

Does my e-moto need to be registered?

Quick Answer: It may need to be registered if the device exceeds common e-bike classifications for speed or motor power and is treated as a moped or motorcycle under state law.

Possibly. If the device exceeds common e-bike classifications for top speed or motor power, it may no longer qualify as an e-bike under state law. In those cases, it could be treated as a moped or motorcycle and may require registration, licensing, and insurance before it can legally operate on public roads. Requirements vary by state, so families should verify local regulations before riding.

What helmet should my child wear on an e-bike or e-scooter?

Quick Answer: A child should wear a properly fitted helmet on every ride, and the helmet should match the device's top speed and intended use

The helmet should match the device's top speed and intended use. Parents should look for a certification label inside the helmet and replace any helmet involved in a crash.

Common helmet standards include:

- CPSC: Common bicycle helmet standard, generally designed for speeds up to about 20 mph
- NTA-8776: E-bike helmet standard designed for higher-speed riding up to about 28 mph
- DOT: Motorcycle helmet standard designed for higher speeds, often with full facial protection

AAA recommends a properly fitted helmet on every ride, regardless of distance or speed.

How can parents reduce e-bike and e-scooter injury risk?

Quick Answer: Parents can reduce injury risk by choosing the right device, setting clear rules, requiring a helmet, starting with lower speed settings and making sure the child rides only where local laws allow.

Parents can reduce risk by choosing the right device, setting limits, and making helmet use non-negotiable. Start with these steps:

- Know the device's top speed and motor power.
- Choose a device that matches your child's age, size, and skill level.
- Start at the lowest speed setting.
- Use parental controls or speed limits when available.
- Require a helmet that matches the device's speed.
- Choose riding areas with limited interaction with cars and pedestrians.
- Review local laws before your child rides.
- Periodically check whether speed settings have been changed.

What should I look for when buying an e-bike or e-scooter for a child or teen?

Quick Answer: Before buying an e-bike or e-scooter for a child or teen, parents should check the device's top speed, weight, braking system, fit, legal riding areas and whether the child has the skill and judgment to ride safely.

Before buying, look beyond the price and design. Ask how fast the device can go, how much it weighs, where it can legally be ridden, and whether your child has the skill and judgment to use it safely.

AAA recommends buying from a trusted dealer or retailer, verifying realistic wattage and top speed, choosing a helmet that matches the device's speed, and questioning marketing labels that may blur the line between e-bikes and higher-speed devices.

If available, consider devices with adjustable speed controls, parental controls, geofencing, smooth acceleration, reliable braking, proper fit, manageable weight, lights, reflectors, or audible alerts.

Where should kids ride e-bikes and e-scooters?

Quick Answer: Kids should ride e-bikes and e-scooters in places that match their skill level, reduce interaction with traffic and pedestrians, and comply with local laws.

Kids should ride in places that match their skill level and limit interaction with traffic and pedestrians. Depending on local laws and available infrastructure, e-bikes and e-scooters may be allowed on streets, bike lanes, shared paths, or sidewalks. Rules vary by state, county, and city.

Parents should check local rules before allowing a child to ride. Parents should also avoid assuming that a device allowed in one community is allowed everywhere.

Can my child ride their e-bike or e-scooter on the sidewalk?

Quick Answer: Maybe. Sidewalk rules for e-bikes and e-scooters vary by state, county and city, so parents should check local regulations before allowing a child to ride on the sidewalk.

Maybe. Laws governing sidewalk use vary widely by state, county, and city. Some communities allow certain e-bikes or e-scooters on sidewalks, while others prohibit them or restrict them based on speed, device type, or rider age. Parents should not assume that rules are the same everywhere. Before allowing a child to ride, check local regulations and choose riding environments that minimize interactions with both vehicles and pedestrians.

Key takeaway: Where a child *can* ride and where a child *should* ride are not always the same. Even when sidewalk riding is legal, parents should consider pedestrian traffic, visibility at driveways and intersections, and the child's experience level when deciding where to ride.

What are the e-bike laws in my state?

E-bike and e-scooter laws vary widely by state and local community. Rules may cover minimum rider age, helmet use, sidewalk access, bike-lane access, speed limits, equipment requirements, and device classification.

Parents should check local rules before a child rides and should revisit those rules when riding in a different city, county, or state. For more information about e-bikes, AAA has a free AAA's free E-Ride Safety Guide at sm.AAA/ERideReady

Do I need insurance if my kid has an e-bike?

Quick Answer: Insurance needs depend on the device, how it is used, and the family's specific policy, especially if the device exceeds typical e-bike classifications or is used on public roads.

Coverage depends on the device, how it is used, and the specific policy. Some homeowners or renters policies may offer limited coverage for theft or damage, but liability coverage can vary, especially for higher-speed devices.

If a device exceeds typical e-bike classifications or is used on public roads, it may be subject to different rules and may require registration, licensing, or separate insurance, similar to a moped or motorcycle. AAA encourages families to review their policies and speak with their insurance provider.

What rules should parents set before a child rides?

Quick Answer: Parents should set rules before the first ride, including where the child can ride, how fast they can go, what safety gear is required and how they should behave around traffic, pedestrians and other riders.

Parents should set clear expectations before the first ride. AAA recommends that e-riders:

- Follow the rules of the road.
- Ride predictably.
- Stay alert near traffic and driveways.
- Avoid phones, headphones, and other distractions.

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Wear the right helmet on every ride.
- Ride only where local laws allow.
- Keep speeds appropriate for the setting.

What should drivers do to help keep e-riders safe?

Quick Answer: Drivers can help keep e-riders safe by slowing down, checking mirrors and blind spots, looking before opening doors and giving riders extra space when passing.

Drivers should expect to see e-bikes and e-scooters in neighborhoods, near parks, on streets, and around residential areas. AAA recommends that drivers slow down, check mirrors and blind spots before turning, look carefully before opening doors, and give riders extra space when passing.

Safety depends on both riders and drivers. E-riders should follow the rules and ride predictably, while drivers should stay alert and watch for smaller, faster-moving devices.

What does AAA support to improve e-bike and e-scooter safety?

Quick Answer: AAA supports education, practical safety guidance, clear device classifications and consistent rules that help families understand where e-bikes and e-scooters can operate and what safety requirements apply.

AAA supports education, practical safety guidance, clear device classifications, and consistent rules that help families understand where e-bikes and e-scooters can operate and what safety requirements apply. Examples include helmet requirements for minors, lighting and visibility requirements, and speed management in high-conflict areas.

E-Ride Ready focuses on giving families useful information, not on a one-size-fits-all policy agenda.

What is the bottom line for parents when it comes to e-bikes and e-scooters?

Before your child rides an e-bike or e-scooter, know how fast the device can go, where it can legally be used, what helmet protection it requires, and whether your child has the skill and judgment to ride safely. The best time to set rules is before the first ride, not after a close call or crash.

Download AAA's free E-Ride Safety Guide at sm.AAA/ERideReady to make a safer, more informed decision for your family.

Can a 12-year-old ride an e-bike?

Quick Answer: It depends on the child's experience, the type of e-bike and local laws. Some higher-speed e-bikes may have minimum age requirements, while lower-speed models may be more appropriate for experienced young riders.

Parents should consider more than age alone. Before allowing a child to ride, evaluate the device's speed, weight, power and whether the child has the judgment and skills needed to ride safely. A properly fitted helmet and clear riding rules are essential.

Can a 14-year-old ride an e-scooter?

Quick Answer: Laws vary by state and community, but parents should focus on whether the rider can safely control the device and follow traffic rules.

Some e-scooters can accelerate quickly and reach speeds that may be difficult for inexperienced riders to manage. Parents should review local regulations, choose age-appropriate devices and start with lower speed settings whenever possible.

Are e-bikes safe for middle school students?

Quick Answer: E-bikes can be safe when the device matches the rider's size, skill level and maturity, and when appropriate safety gear and supervision are used.

E-bikes are not toys. Many models can reach speeds significantly faster than traditional bicycles. Parents should evaluate whether a middle school student can ride predictably, follow traffic laws and handle unexpected situations before allowing independent riding.

Are e-bikes more dangerous than regular bicycles?

Quick Answer: E-bikes can present additional risks because they travel faster, are often heavier and accelerate more quickly than traditional bicycles.

Speed and weight can reduce reaction time and increase crash severity. This does not mean e-bikes are inherently unsafe, but riders should be matched with an appropriate device and wear the correct helmet for the speeds involved.

How fast is too fast for a child on an e-bike?

Quick Answer: There is no universal speed that is safe for every child. The appropriate speed depends on the rider's experience, environment and ability to control the device safely.

Parents should start with lower speed settings whenever possible and gradually increase access only as the rider demonstrates safe decision-making and vehicle control. Faster speeds leave less time to react and increase the force of a crash.

What is the safest e-bike for a beginner?

Quick Answer: The safest e-bike for a beginner is one that matches the rider's age, size, skill level and intended riding environment.

Families should look for manageable weight, predictable acceleration, quality brakes, visible lighting and adjustable speed settings. Lower-speed models are often a better choice for new riders than higher-performance devices.

Why are e-bike injuries increasing?

Quick Answer: More people are using e-bikes and e-scooters than ever before, creating greater exposure and increasing the likelihood of crashes and injuries.

Increased popularity, higher device speeds, inexperienced riders and inconsistent regulations have contributed to growing concerns about injuries. Safety education, helmet use and selecting age-appropriate devices remain critical.

Do e-bikes require a license?

Quick Answer: It depends on the device and state law. Many traditional e-bikes do not require a license, but higher-speed devices may be regulated differently.

If a device exceeds common e-bike classifications based on speed or power, it may be treated more like a moped or motorcycle and could require licensing, registration or insurance. Families should verify local requirements before riding.

Is an e-bike safer than an e-scooter?

Quick Answer: Safety depends on the rider, the device and the riding environment rather than the vehicle type alone.

Both e-bikes and e-scooters can present risks. Factors such as speed, stability, rider experience, helmet use and road conditions often have a greater impact on safety than the type of device being used.

Can I ride an e-bike in a bike lane?

Quick Answer: Many communities allow certain classes of e-bikes in bike lanes, but the rules vary by location.

Access may depend on the e-bike's classification, local ordinances, trail rules or the type of bike facility. Riders should check local regulations before using bike lanes or shared-use paths.

Should parents be worried about e-bikes?

Quick Answer: Parents should be informed rather than alarmed. Understanding the device, selecting appropriate safety gear and establishing rules before riding can significantly reduce risk.

The most important questions are how fast the device travels, where it will be ridden, what helmet protection it requires and whether the rider possesses the skills and judgment to operate it safely. The E-Ride Ready campaign encourages families to answer those questions before a child rides for the first time.