

E-Bikes & E-Scooters

Quick GUIDE



Operating E-Bikes and E-Scooters under New York State Motor Vehicle Law

E-Bike and E-Scooter Definition

Bicycle with Electric Assist: A bicycle that is no more than 36 inches wide, with an electric motor under 750 watts, equipped with operable pedals, meeting the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and meeting the requirements of one of the three classes of E-Bikes below.

Electric Scooter: Every type of device weighing less than 100 hundred pounds that has handlebars, a floorboard or a seat that could be stood or sat upon by the operator, and an electric motor, that can be powered by an electric motor and/or human power and which has a maximum speed of no more than 20 mph. (NOTE: **speed limit** for e-scooters in NY is 15 mph, not 20 mph!).

Classes of Bicycles with Electric Assist

■ **Class 1 E-Bikes:** have an electric motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling, and ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph.

■ **Class 2 E-Bikes:** have an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel the E-Bike, and are not capable of providing assistance when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph.

■ **Class 3 E-Bikes:** **For use in New York City only.** Class three bicycles with electric assist have an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and is not capable of providing assistance when the E-Bike reaches 25 mph.

Classification Label

All E-Bikes and E-Scooters in New York State must have a manufacturer's label prominently affixed stating the wattage of the motor, maximum speed with electric assist, and, if an E-Bike, whether it is class 1, 2, or 3.

NOTE: Devices such as mopeds, electric skateboards, segways, hoverboards, and electric unicycles are not considered E-Bikes or E-Scooters and may be illegal to operate on the highways in New York State or subject to other laws or regulations.

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Lawful Operation of E-Bikes and E-Scooters:

■ **E-Bikes and E-Scooters** are generally granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to vehicle drivers and bicycle riders. Note the exceptions below.

■ **Operators of E-Bikes and E-Scooters must be at least 16 years old.**

■ **Laws for Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter are not uniform throughout New York State.** Municipalities may have local laws, including laws that prohibit E-Bikes or E-Scooters, and require helmets. Learn the local laws and ordinances where you ride.

■ **Helmets are required for 16 and 17-year-olds operating E-Scooters** and all operators of Class 3 E-Bikes. Helmets are always recommended.

■ **Class 3 E-Bikes may not be operated outside NYC.**

■ **E-Bikes and E-Scooters must use bike lanes** wherever usable.

■ **Roads with speed limits over 30 mph** cannot be used by E-Bikes and E-Scooters, unless allowed by local law or ordinance.

■ **E-Bikes and E-Scooters can not be operated on sidewalks,** unless allowed by local law or ordinance.

■ **E-Bike and E-Scooter operators must ride in single file** on roadways and cannot double up as traditional bicycles can.

■ **E-Scooter operators** may not carry passengers.

■ **E-Bike or E-Scooter operation while impaired** by drugs or alcohol is illegal.

■ **When operating on trails or bike paths,** learn the local trail, municipal or park regulations.



Other Important Points

E-Bikes and E-Scooters are faster and heavier than non-electric types and handle differently.

New or returning operators of E-Bikes and E-Scooters are encouraged to practice in a safe environment in order to get comfortable with their power, controls and weight before operating in traffic.

To be legal, the maximum wattage of the electric assist motor of an E-Bike must be under 750 watts. Make sure devices you purchase online or second hand are legal in NY. If you own or are contemplating owning an E-Bike whose electric assist motor watts or speed exceed the specifications within each E-Bike class, then the E-Bike would not be legal to operate in New York State.

Plan your ride to avoid roads with speed limits over 30 mph where riding E-Bikes and E-Scooters is illegal.

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