E-Bike Safety Resource Guide

Click here to learn more about E-device safety and resources

How to Buy an E-Bike
for Parents and Caregivers



This quick reference guide is intended to help parents and caregivers understand whether the bicycle they are looking to purchase is a street-legal electric bicycle or "e-bike" and to encourage safe and responsible e-bike riding.

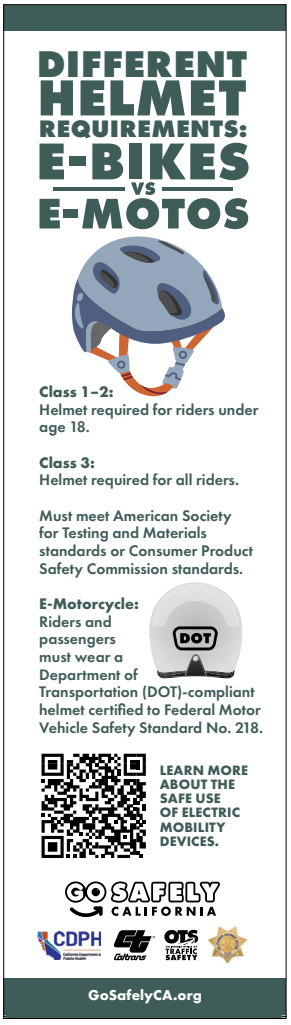
How do I know if what I am buying is a street legal e-bike and not an electric motorcycle or 'e-moto'?

Street-legal e-bikes are grouped into three classes by top speed and motor assist features. A retailer may only advertise and sell a product as an "e-bike" if it falls within one of the three classes and includes a permanent label on the e-bike that shows the class, top assisted speed, and the wattage of the motor.

Many devices that look like an e-bike are not e-bikes and are not street legal. If the device is not equipped with manufacturer-provided, fully operable pedals, if it has been modified to reach speeds higher than 28 miles per hour or is more than 750 watts, then it's not an e-bike; it is an e-moto. This means it is not street legal.

More tips to help purchase a street legal e-bike and how to tell the difference between an e-bike and an e-moto are provided below.

E-Bike Versus E-Moto Overview
San Mateo Police Department E-Device Quick Information Guide
San Mateo County Office of Education E-Bike Playbook - Is Your Child Ready to Ride Safely?
California Highway Patrol (CHP) E-Bikes and Other Devices Information Bulletin





What are some ways to make sure that my family rides e-bikes safely?

E-bikes are not the traditional bikes that most of us grew up with.
E-bikes are not toys and misuse can have serious consequences. A five-year national study led by Rady Children's Health in San Diego found that e-bike injuries are now the top cause of pediatric trauma visits at their emergency department.

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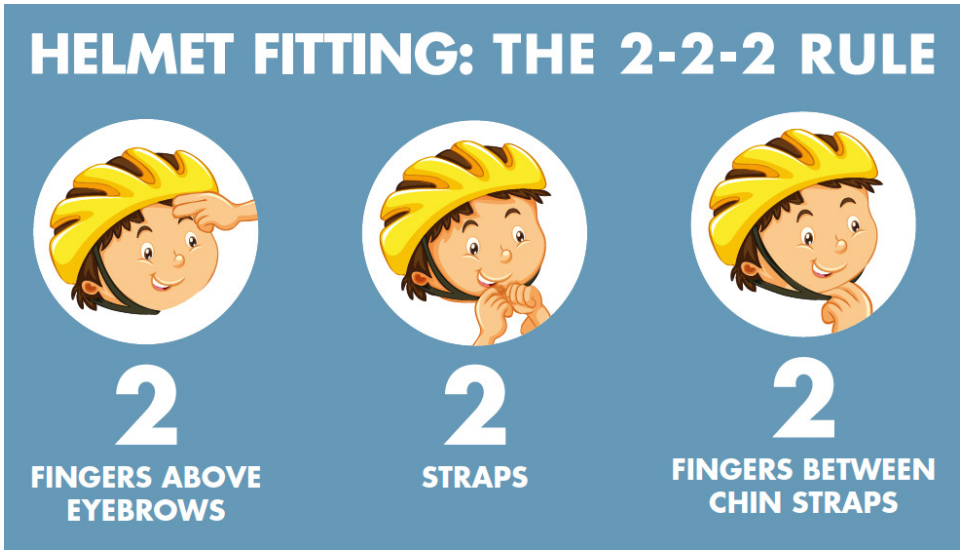
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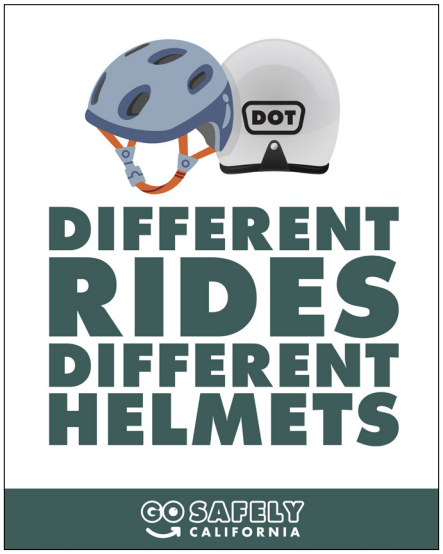
Wear a Properly-Fitted Bike Helmet

There are different helmet requirements for e-bike use depending on class. To operate a class 1 and 2 e-bike, children under the age of 18 must wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet. To operate a class 3 e-bike, the rider must be at least 16 years of age and a helmet is required regardless of age.

Keep in mind that bike helmets are not a "one size fits all" solution. Helmet sizes can vary between manufacturers. That is why it is important to take the time and make sure your helmet fits properly. In a fall, a helmet that fits poorly will provide far less protection against injury than one that fits securely.

Review this step-by-step guide for fitting your bike helmet for additional tips:
Fitting Your Helmet





Learn the Rules of the Road and Practice Safe Riding

Parent and caregiver involvement is key to teaching children how to be safe riders by setting ground rules for the responsible use of e-bikes, supervising young riders, and having them practice in a safe area before going out on the road. Like learning to drive a car, e-bikes require practice and a level of maturity to handle the newfound responsibility.

Teach your child the rules of the road as if they were operating a motor vehicle and reinforce this by sending them to an e-bike safety course or other road safety course offered locally. E-bike courses may be offered by local law enforcement agencies, schools, or other community based organizations in your area.



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E-Bike Trainings and Informational Resources

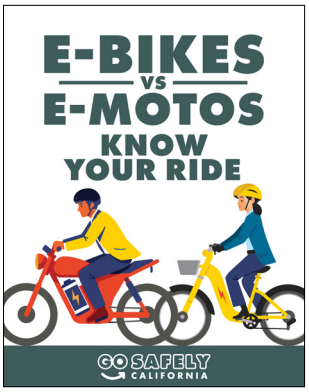
The links below provide e-bike safety education and other resources to encourage safe and responsible e-bike riding.

- City of Danville "Not My Kid" E-Bike Safety For Families
- Rady Children's Hospital E-Bike Training Course
- CHP E-Bicycle Safety and Training
- E-Bike Training for Teens
- Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Tips

Bookmarks

» E-Bike vs. E-Motos - Different Rides. Different Helmets
» Helmet Requirements and E-Bike Classes
» E-Bikes and Drivers: Driving and Riding Safely





Driver and E-Bike Rider Essentials

To help keep all road users safe, local and state leaders offer the following tips for drivers and riders:

Drivers

- Follow the posted speed limit.
- Slow down at intersections as e-Bikes can move faster than traditional bikes and enter your blind spot quickly.
- When possible, change lanes to allow a minimum of three feet when passing bicyclists.

E-Bike Riders

- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Stop at stop signs and signals. The same rules of the road for vehicles apply to E-Bikes.
- Always wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet, regardless of your age or the type of bike you're riding.
- Get familiar with the different E-Bike classes, top speed and motor assist features, and rules for E-Bike use. Some counties, cities, and local authorities may have specific ordinances and/or resolutions.

