



SAN DIEGO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

E-BIKE SAFETY TIPS

California designates three classes of electric bicycles. Knowing the class of your electric bicycle will tell you where and how you can ride.



Pedal Bike



Class 1



Class 2



Class 3

Pedal assist



Throttle



Max speed

Speed limit

20 mph

20 mph

28 mph

Minimum age

None

None

None

16

Driver's license

No

No

No

No

Helmet required

Under 18

Under 18

Under 18

All ages

Helmet recommended

All ages

All ages

All ages

All ages



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E-BIKE SAFETY



Passengers

Only allowed on bikes specifically made for additional riders. E-Bikes must have a seat for passengers and often have footrests for passengers.



Where to ride

Ride in the same direction as traffic. Use bike lanes when available. Do not ride on sidewalks or in crosswalks.



Signs & signals

Obey all traffic signs and signals. Come to a complete stop at signs. Look before turning.



Safety

Wear a properly fastened helmet that is certified for the type of bike you are riding.



The "sharrow" means the lane is too narrow for bikes and cars to travel side by side. If there are no marked bike lanes or sharrows present, bicyclists have a right to share the road.



Riders 18 years and under MUST wear a helmet



ALL - traffic lights, stop signs, signs, and signals apply to ALL road users, including E-Bikes.



Cyclists MUST ride to the right edge of the road as practical.



Sidewalks and crosswalks are meant for pedestrians.



Riding against the flow of traffic is prohibited.



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E-BIKE OR E-MOTORCYCLE?

E-BIKE CLASSIFICATIONS



**CLASS 1:
PEDAL ASSIST**
MAX 20 MPH
HELMET REQUIRED
UNDER 18



**CLASS 2:
THROTTLE ASSIST**
MAX 20 MPH
HELMET REQUIRED
UNDER 18



**CLASS 3:
PEDAL ASSIST**
MAX 28 MPH
16+ YEARS OLD TO RIDE
HELMET REQUIRED FOR
ALL AGES

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW IN CALIFORNIA TO MODIFY OR TAMPER WITH ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN A WAY THAT CHANGES THE SPEED CAPABILITY, UNLESS THE RIDER ALSO CHANGES THE BIKE'S LABELED CLASSIFICATION PER CVC 24016(D).

LICENSE REQUIRED



MOPED/MOTORIZED BICYCLE
MAX 30 MPH
CLASSIFIED AS A VEHICLE
DL REQUIRED



MOTORCYCLE/MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLE
SADDLE OR SEAT, NO PEDALS MANY E-MOTORCYCLES LOOK SIMILAR TO DIRT BIKES.
DL AND M1 ENDORSEMENT REQUIRED



SOME E-MOTORCYCLES HAVE AFTERMARKET KITS USED TO DISGUISE THEM AS E-BICYCLES (ADDING FAKE PEDALS). THE MOTORCYCLES LACK REQUIREMENTS OF BICYCLES AND E-BIKES FOR LEGAL ON-ROAD USE, INCLUDING HAVING SPEED AND POWER LIMITS THAT EXCEED LEGAL LIMITS FOR ELECTRIC BIKES. DL AND M1 ENDORSEMENT REQUIRED.

MOPEDS, MOTORIZED BICYCLES, E-MOTORCYCLES, AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES ARE VEHICLES AND, THEREFORE MAY BE TOWED OR IMPOUNDED.

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E-MOTORCYCLES ARE NOT E-BIKES

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

E-Bikes:

Pedal Assist and Throttle: E-Bikes are bicycles equipped with an electric motor that assists with pedaling or provides throttle power.

Speed Limits: Classified into three categories:

- Class 1: Pedal-assist only, max speed of 20 mph.
- Class 2: Throttle-assisted, max speed of 20 mph.
- Class 3: Pedal-assist only, max speed of 28 mph.

Usage: E-bikes are allowed on bike paths, lanes, and some trails, depending on local regulations. Riders of Class 3 E-Bikes must wear helmets and be at least 16 years old.

No License Required: E-Bikes do not require a driver's license, registration, or insurance.



E-Motorcycles:

Full Motor Power: E-Motorcycles are fully electric motor-powered vehicles designed for higher speeds without the need for pedaling.

Higher Speed and Power: Capable of much higher speeds than E-Bikes, E-Motorcycles typically exceed the 28 mph limit of Class 3 E-Bikes.

Usage: Approved motorized trails and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation areas.

License Required: E-Motorcycles are not generally street legal. Operation on a roadway requires a valid motorcycle license, registration from the California DMV, as well as insurance.



Where Can You Ride?

E-Bikes: Generally allowed on bike paths, bike lanes, and trails where regular bicycles are permitted. Class 3 e-bikes have more restrictions.

E-Motorcycles: Approved motorized trails and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation areas. They are not allowed on bike paths, bike lanes, or non-motorized trails. It's important to understand the differences between E-Bikes and E-Motorcycles to ensure you're riding in the right places and following the law. Always check local regulations for the latest information.