



Electric bikes and the law

There are rules that have to be met to ride on UK public roads, are you legal?



What counts as a legal e-bike?

In UK law, a road-legal e-bike is called an Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC). If your bike meets the EAPC rules, it is treated the same as a normal bicycle.

To be a legal EAPC, your bike must:

- Have working pedals that can move the bike forward.
- Have a motor with no more than 250W continuous power.
- Stop giving electric assistance at 15.5 mph (25 km/h).
- Be ridden only by people aged 14 or over. If your bike meets these rules, you do not need a licence, insurance, registration, or tax.



What is not a legal e-bike?

If your electric bike does **not** meet the EAPC rules, it is legally treated as a moped or motorbike.

This includes bikes that:

- Can move on the throttle alone without pedalling
- Have motors stronger than 250W
- Provide assistance above 15.5 mph
- Have been modified to increase speed or power

If your bike falls into this category, you **must**:

- Have a driving licence
- Register the bike with the DVLA
- Have insurance
- Wear a proper motorcycle helmet

Riding a non-compliant e-bike on the road or cycle paths is illegal and the bike can be seized.

Buying an e-bike safely

Before buying, check:

- Does it have working pedals?
- Is the motor 250W or less?
- Does assistance cut out at 15.5 mph?
- Is it advertised as **EAPC** compliant?

If buying online, be cautious - some sellers advertise illegal bikes as “road-legal” when they are not.

Where you can ride

Legal EAPCs can be used on:

- Roads
- Cycle lanes
- Shared-use paths
- Private land (with permission)

They cannot be ridden on pavements unless marked for shared use.



Need advice?

If you're unsure whether your e-bike is legal, speak to an officer or Scan the QR code for more information and guidance:



If you know anyone who is using an E bike illegally, please contact the police on 101 or give information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE



101

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



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