



E-scooters are a great way to make short trips around the city. They're quick, convenient, and accessible for a wide range of people. Our programme supports people to be safe and enjoy their scooters. This guide covers safe use of an e-scooter in an urban environment.

About e-scooters

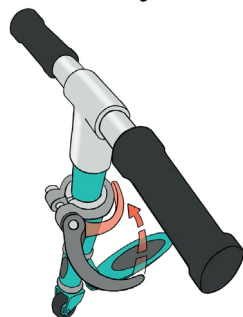
Most road legal e-scooters reach speeds of 20–25km/h and can travel about 20–30km on one charge. They can usually carry up to 100kg. Not all e-scooters available for sale are legal for road use.

Many e-scooters fold for storage/transport. Keep in mind they are heavy, about 15kg.

Start safe:

Do the 'A2E' check:

- ✓ **A = Air.** Check your tyres are inflated correctly. Use a bike pump and adapter provided. Puncture proof tyres are a good option.
- ✓ **B = Brakes.** Check your brake(s) are stopping well.
- ✓ **C = Controls.** Check your scooter is charged and your lights work. Take an extra set of lights and/or reflective gear if riding in dim or dark conditions.
- ✓ **D = Drop.** Gently drop your scooter from a small height to check for noises. Secure all clamps and accessories, such as phone mounts.
- ✓ **E = Equipment.** Always wear an approved bicycle or motorbike helmet. Wear closed shoes in case you need to hop off in a hurry. Carry your gear in a backpack. Bags hanging on one shoulder or on the handlebars can swing and throw you off balance.



Check your route to avoid busy roads, narrow paths/lanes or areas with crowded footpaths. Avoid steps and steep inclines if possible.

See, be seen, and communicate. Always ride in a predictable way.

Legislation and rules

The Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (Section 11) regulates 'wheeled recreational devices'. This includes any vehicle with wheels under 355mm in diameter, and propelled by the rider and/or an auxiliary motor not exceeding 300W power output.

Most e-scooters do not need a vehicle registration or driver's license. They can be used on most roads and footpaths. See also: www.legislation.govt.nz or www.nzta.govt.nz

Contact your local Council or scooter-share operator for local rules and by-laws.

Learning the ropes

How to use an e-scooter

Most e-scooters are simple to operate. Check your User Manual before you ride.

1. First, unplug your scooter if charging. Cover the plug to prevent exposure to water.
2. Find your strongest foot to push. Use your left foot if possible, so you lean away from traffic by default. On longer trips, alternate your front foot. Keep knees loose or bent.
3. Find a flat, clear area to start riding. Always stagger your feet, with your 'weak' foot near the front of the scooter deck. Start pushing the scooter with your 'strong' foot.
4. Once you reach walking speed you can use the throttle. Push down the thumb throttle to engage the motor. Rest your pushing foot on the back of the deck. On steeper inclines you may also need to push with your foot, or walk the scooter.
5. Keep both hands on the handlebars at all times. You do not need to use hand signals to indicate turns. Instead, check if the path is clear and give way if not.
6. Practice steering around objects until you are confident maneuvering. Practice looking over your shoulder and quick stops.
7. To slow down, lean back, release the throttle, and apply the brake(s) gently.

Parking

When possible fold the scooter and take it with you. If you need to leave it outside, lock it safely to a bike rack or other solid street furniture.

Use a solid bike 'U' lock through the fork and/or a disc brake lock. Lock the frame – wheels can be removed.

Do not obstruct the footpath, handrails, seating or exits. Always park in a safe and considerate way.



Looking after your e-scooter battery

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries can be a fire hazard if damaged or mishandled. Never charge or use a damaged battery. Only use compatible and certified devices. Charge devices away from exits and living areas – a garage or shed is best. Disconnect the battery once fully charged. Do not leave batteries where they can overheat, for example, in cars or direct sunlight. Visit [fireandemergency.nz](https://www.fireandemergency.nz) for more advice.

In case of a fire: do not attempt to extinguish. Evacuate immediately and call 111.

Staying safe on your e-scooter

Safe speeds Always operate e-scooters in a careful and considerate manner. Ride at a speed that does not pose a hazard to yourself or others! Always wear a helmet.

Safe stopping The small wheels are more likely to jolt when they hit obstacles, such as gravel or kerbs. This can throw the rider forward.

- Use your brake(s) to slow down, or stop and walk, around hazards, especially up kerbs.
- To stop quickly, hop off your scooter on one side and run alongside until you come to a stop.
- If you cannot avoid an obstacle, bend your knees and lean your weight back and down.



Safe handling An e-scooter weighs about 15kg. Wheel them if you can, but when lifting always hold the back wheel steady. Keep the deck clear of ankles and shins.

Safe sharing Always ride in a safe and considerate manner around other people. Use the footpath only when it is safe to do so, i.e. very quiet, wide and a smooth flat surface.

- Give way to people on the footpath – allow a wide berth. When approaching people (especially from behind), slow down, use a bell or call out.
- Slow down on blind corners. Only pass other users when you can see clearly ahead.
- Look behind you often. This helps communicate when you change road position.
- Ride solo – do not take passengers on your scooter.

Safe scooting Where you feel safe, scoot on the road but keep to the left, staying clear of the gutter and drains. When riding on the road, follow all road rules.

Keep clear of parked cars, as doors can open unexpectedly. Watch out for vehicles crossing your path – they may not see you so be ready to stop.



More information on training and safety:

www.gw.govt.nz/scooters

bookings@pedalready.org.nz

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 **Greater Wellington**
Te Pane Matua Taiao