

Buying an e-bike?

Before using this vehicle, check the applicable local laws relating to your intended use of the vehicle on roads and road related areas



E-bikes are a great way for people to move independently, build confidence and stay active. But before you buy, it's important to understand the NSW safety requirements and road-use rules so you choose a bike you can use safely and legally.

Follow the NSW rules

When buying an e-bike, there are two things to consider:

1. Is the e-bike legal to ride on NSW roads?

This is regulated by Transport for NSW.

To be used on public roads, paths or shared zones in NSW, an e-bike will soon need to:

- meet the EN 15194 standard,
- have a maximum continuous power output of 250 watts or less, and
- only provide pedal-assistance, with the motor cutting out at 25 km/h.

If you are buying an e-bike for school, commuting or recreation, make sure it meets the 250 watt and EN 15194 requirements.

From 1 March 2029, only EN 15194 standard e-bikes will be allowed to be ridden on public roads, paths or shared zones.

2. Is the e-bike electrically safe?

This is regulated by NSW Fair Trading.

All declared e-bikes sold in NSW must meet one of these electrical safety standards:

- AS 15194 (Australian)
- EN 15194 (European) or
- UL 2849 (USA).

From 1 February 2026, declared e-bikes must also be tested, certified, and marked with an electrical safety approval number before they can be sold in NSW. This includes e-bikes used on private property.

An e-bike can be electrically safe but still not legal to ride on public NSW roads.

Purchasing an e-bike for use on NSW roads

Ensure your bike is safe for road use:

✓ Look for an EN 15194 compliance sticker

This confirms the e-bike meets the requirement for use on public NSW roads.

✓ Check the motor power rating

Choose an e-bike that is 250 watts or less.

✓ Check how the bike operates

- The motor must only engage when pedalling.
- The power output must cut off at a speed of 25 km/hr.
- A throttle is permitted up to 6 km/h.

✓ A compliant e-bike will usually have a sticker indicating:

- EN 15194 compliance,
- a maximum continuous rated power of up to 250 watts, and
- a cut-off speed of 25 km/h.

✓ Buy from a reputable retailer

Retailers must provide accurate information about:

- safety certification,
- battery charging and storage, and
- whether the bike is approved for public road use.

Providing false or misleading information is a serious breach of the Australian Consumer Law.

What about more powerful e-bikes?

Higher powered e-bikes can still be sold in NSW if they meet the electrical safety requirements and from 1 February 2026, if they are tested, certified and marked.

However, these e-bikes cannot be used on public NSW roads or road-related areas. They can only be used on private property.

If you are buying an e-bike for school, commuting or recreation, a higher-powered e-bike is not legal and penalties may apply.

Important

An electrical safety certificate for an e-bike does not mean the e-bike is legal to ride on public NSW roads.

Don't modify, unlock or tamper

Tampering with:

- motor output
- speed limiters
- throttle systems
- battery wiring

... can make an e-bike illegal to use, void your warranty and significantly increase the risk of battery fires.

Safety considerations for young riders

There are currently no age restrictions for the use of personal e-bikes in NSW. However, the NSW Government will be introducing age limits for e-bike riders in mid-2026. A child should have the necessary physical coordination and maturity to handle an e-bike safely. Parents should choose e-bikes with appropriate features suited to their child's skill level.

Checklist before you buy

Ask the retailer:

- ☐ Is this e-bike legal to ride on public NSW roads?
- ☐ Is the maximum power output 250W or less?
- ☐ Does the throttle cut off at 6 km/hr?
- ☐ Is this e-bike tested and certified?

Check the labelling on the e-bike for:

- ☐ EN 15194 compliance
- ☐ an electrical safety approval number
- ☐ a maximum rated power of 250W
- ☐ a cut-off speed of 25 km/hr

Safety tips



Battery and charging safety

Lithium-ion batteries can cause fires if they are used incorrectly, damaged, or poorly manufactured.

✓ Do

- Use the battery and charger that come with the e-bike.
- Charge on a hard, non-flammable surface, away from flammable materials.
- Disconnect as soon as the battery is charged.
- Store the e-bike and charger in a cool, dry area.

✗ Don't

- Never leave the battery to charge unattended or while sleeping.
- Never use incompatible batteries or chargers.
- Never use a damaged battery (e.g. hot, swollen, leaking).
- Don't throw a lithium-ion battery in a household bin, a fire could ignite. Dispose of it at a recycling drop-off point.



Scan the QR code for more on lithium-ion battery safety

Ride safely

- Only ride a road legal e-bike on NSW roads.
- Only ride on footpaths if you are under 16.
- Always wear a fitted, approved bicycle helmet.
- Follow all NSW bicycle road rules.
- Ride safely and give way to pedestrians.
- Only carry passengers if the bike is designed for it.
- No phone use while riding.



Scan the QR code for more on riding e-bikes in NSW

