

E-Scooter FAQs

Electric scooters, or e-scooters, are an up-and-coming mode of transport, but there's a lot of uncertainty around where and when they can legally be used. With government-backed rental trials taking place across the country, we thought this would be a good time to recap the rules as they stand right now.

Are electric scooters legal in the UK?

Yes, electric scooters are legal to own in the UK. However, there are lots of restrictions surrounding where they can be used.

Where can electric scooters be used?

Currently, electric scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission. It is effectively illegal to use them on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes, and in pedestrian-only areas.

Where a rental scheme is running, it's legal to use a rental e-scooter on a public road or cycle lane, provided you meet the requirements around [licensing](#) and [insurance](#).

Why are electric scooters currently illegal on roads and pavements?

Electric scooters are currently classed as 'powered transporters' by the Government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles.

This means that it's illegal to use them on pavements, cycle lanes, and in pedestrian-only areas, and would only be legal to use them on public roads if they could meet the same requirements as motor vehicles (e.g., in terms of insurance, tax, license, registration, and vehicle construction), which, in practice, is virtually impossible.

The formulation of a law specifically covering electric scooters has been under discussion for some time. It looks like there may be some developments in this area in the near future, particularly with the rental trials currently taking place.

When will electric scooters be legal on roads and pavements?

Electric scooter rental trials have been underway in several areas across the UK since the summer of 2020. Local councils have been working with rental providers to test the viability of electric scooters as a safe and effective mode of transport.

These pilot programs could potentially pave the way to a version of the UK in which e-scooters are generally legal for use on roads and cycle lanes, carefully regulated to promote safety, and socially accepted as a sustainable means of transport. Some of the trials ended in 2022, however, several cities are continuing to run them. Please check the [government website](#) to find out more information and details.

Private electric scooters are now set to be legalised for use on public roads across the UK under the Transport Bill introduced in the Queen's speech on the 10th of May 2022. This means that the UK

E-Scooter FAQs

Government will work through the details of the regulations that will enable the legislation of e-scooters. The Department for Transport (DfT) are likely to review the legislation later in 2023, or potentially 2024.

Do you need a driver's license for an electric scooter?

Yes. Whether you are renting or buying an electric scooter, you will need to hold a valid full or provisional UK driving license that includes the 'Q' category entitlement. This category can be found on licenses for categories AM, A, or B. Please see the government website [here](#) for details.

Do you need insurance for an electric scooter?

Yes. When renting an e-scooter, you'll need insurance, but this will be arranged by the rental operator. Please see the government website for details.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, electric scooters are considered motor vehicles, meaning the rules that apply to other motor vehicles, such as cars and motorcycles, also apply to e-scooters. As it is not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. Doing so could result in the vehicle getting seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988.

Once the legislation around personal electric scooter use has been reviewed and confirmed by DfT, you will likely need insurance to use your e-scooter on roads and in public spaces.

Why E-Scooters?

Green Message: An alternative mode of transport in cities that cuts down emissions (abiding by UK law). Low charging costs.

Fun and Enjoyable: Have a go! Most e-scooters are maxed at 15.5mph, but it feels much faster when you're on board.

Easy to Maintain: As e-scooters are simple in design, this makes for low maintenance. Handlebars, brakes, tyre pressure, and tread are the key areas to check when maintaining your electric scooter.

Portability: Foldable/collapsible designs allow for easy carrying. Batteries are heavy though, so be aware of the weight of your scooter. Small and easy to store – they come with a kickstand as a standard, but you can also get carry straps and storage bags.

Key Features and Benefits

Safety:

- All our e-scooters have LED lights or reflectors.
- Tyres – make sure they're properly inflated. It's no different to a car or a bike.
- Brakes – again, like a car or bike, check to make sure they're in good working order.
- Helmet and pads are advised.

E-Scooter FAQs

Range:

E-scooters vary in range and charge time. The models we carry have running ranges from 11 to 28 miles and vary in charge times from 2 to 8 hours, all depending on the battery.

Weather Resistant:

All of the e-scooters ranged have a splash and dust-resistant rating. The table below outlines each rating and highlights the relevant two.

	Level of Protection from Water								
	No special water protection	Can resist water that drips vertically onto the product	Can resist water that hits the product at a 15° angle or less	Can take water sprays of up to 60°	Is resistant to water splashes from any direction	Can resist a sustained, low-pressure water jet spray	Can resist high-pressure, heavy sprays of water	Can be submerged up to 1 meter in water for 30 minutes	Can be submerged deeper than 1 meter – the exact depth specified by the manufacturer
Not protected against any physical contact or objects	IP00	IP01	IP02	IP03	IP04	IP05	IP06	IP07	IP08
Protected from anything bigger than 50 mm	IP10	IP11	IP12	IP13	IP14	IP15	IP16	IP17	IP18
Protected from anything bigger than 12.5 mm	IP20	IP21	IP22	IP23	IP24	IP25	IP26	IP27	IP28
Protected from anything bigger than 2.5 mm	IP30	IP31	IP32	IP33	IP34	IP35	IP36	IP37	IP38
Protected from anything bigger than 1 mm	IP40	IP41	IP42	IP43	IP44	IP45	IP46	IP47	IP48
Dust resistant - some dust may get through, but it won't be enough to damage the product	IP50	IP51	IP52	IP53	IP54	IP55	IP56	IP57	IP58
The product is fully dust tight	IP60	IP61	IP62	IP63	IP64	IP65	IP66	IP67	IP68

IP – Ingress Protection Rating Matrix

The IP rating is a way of showing how effective a product is at blocking out liquid and solids. If a rating is "IPXX" it means the manufacturer didn't specifically test the product for protection from solids or liquids.

More information can be found on the government's website.

See [here](#) for information about the rental scheme trials.

See [here](#) for details and guidance around "Powered Transporters".