

How To Buy An E-Bike

Electric bicycles offer a fun and efficient way to get around town and help to improve the mobility of our community, all while reducing traffic emissions! If you're interested in buying an e-bike for yourself or a loved one, but aren't sure where to start, this guide is for you.

Note to Parents

Please know your student's abilities and limitations. Not all children have the physical or cognitive skills to ride an e-bike responsibly. Remember, you are financially and legally responsible for the actions of your child.

What defines an e-bike?

Motor not exceeding
750 watts

Operable Pedals

Max speed of
20 or 28 mph

"Out-of-Class" Devices

An 'out-of-class' device is an electric mobility device sold as, or assumed to be, an e-bike which is capable of operating beyond the legal class definitions of an e-bike (please see page 2 for more details on class definitions).

Law enforcement is beginning to crack down on these devices, some of which require licensing and may not be street-legal. Please research before purchasing, especially when purchasing for a minor as some age restrictions apply.

If the motor exceeds 750W, and/or the device is capable of reaching motor assisted-speeds greater than 20mph (Class 1 & 2) or 28mph (Class 3), it is not a legal e-bike.



Marin County Bicycle Coaliton



Learn More
marinbike.org

E-BIKE TYPES/CLASSES

Class 1

- Top Assisted Speed: 20mph
- Pedal Assist Only
- Recommended ages 12+

Class 2

- Top Assisted Speed: 20mph
- Throttle & Pedal Assist
- Recommended ages 16+

Class 3

- Top Assisted Speed: 28mph
- Pedal Assist Only
- By Law, ages 16+

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY

Can I carry a passenger?

Passengers must have a separate seat from the operator. The Yuba Kombi is a good example. Both passenger and operator must follow helmet laws according to their age and e-bike class.

Can I transport this bike?

If the bike cannot fit directly in the back of your vehicle you will need an e-bike specific hitch rack that is designed for the heavier weight of an e-bike. Need repairs? There are several mobile repair services in Marin which may be able to service your e-bike.

Where will I store it?

No bike wants to be left out in the rain, and e-bikes are especially sensitive to the elements. Keeping your bike in a secure area that is protected from the weather will help keep it in good working condition and help prevent theft.

TO BUY, OR NOT TO BUY?

A few brands we support

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Benno | Momentum | Specialized |
| Brompton | Orbea | Tern |
| Cannondale | Riese & Muller | Trek |
| Gazelle | Santa Cruz | Urban Arrow |
| Giant | Serial 1 | Yuba |

A few brands we don't support

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Super73* | Samebike* |
| Sur-Ron** | Macfox** |
| Ride1Up* | Juiced Bikes* |

*Some models do not meet, or may be modified to exceed, legal capabilities of an e-bike

** Not e-bikes. Not allowed on multi-use paths, may require licensing

Support Local

We always recommend talking with the pros at your local bike shop. Not only can they ensure the bike is sized properly, they can also service your bike when you need help with mechanical or electrical issues. Many bike shops will not service brands they do not sell, keep that in mind when buying online.