

E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety

Electric bikes and scooters, known as e-bikes and e-scooters are becoming increasingly popular. They are motor assisted and contain a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, which assists the rider to tackle more challenging terrain and enables speeds of up to 15.5mph. Whilst there are many benefits to using an e-bike or e-scooter there are also risks.

This leaflet seeks to inform and educate the reader on e-bike and e-scooter battery safety.

*Please note: Only e-scooters from participating e-scooter trials are currently legal on UK roads. Other e-scooters cannot currently be used on UK roads legally. Being caught using an e-scooter illegally could result in a fine, penalty points on your licence, and the e-scooter being impounded. **E-scooter trials: guidance for users - GOV. UK (www.gov.uk)***



Safe buying

- Do some research on reputable manufacturers and check product reviews before buying an e-bike or e-scooter
- Use a reputable retailer to buy an e-bike, e-scooter, charger and battery
- Check the e-bike or e-scooter complies with UK product safety standards by ensuring it is marked with a CE or UKCA mark
- Ensure you register your e-bike or e-scooter with the manufacturer to validate warranties

Maintaining an e-bike or e-scooter

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for using and charging your e-bike or e-scooter
- Always use the manufacturer approved battery and charger – if a replacement battery or charger is required only buy this directly from the manufacturer or from the original retailer you brought the e-bike or e-scooter from
- Regularly check your e-bike or e-scooter, battery and charger for damage or signs that the battery might be failing.
- Regularly check if your e-bike or e-scooter has been recalled by visiting the government [Product and Recalls website at Product Recalls and Alerts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/product-recalls)
- Never tamper with or attempt to modify or alter the battery or charger

Safe charging

- Charge your e-bike or e-scooter when you are present and awake, don't leave it unattended, go out or fall asleep with it charging
- Don't charge your e-bike or e-scooter in your bedroom, or where you could block an escape route such as a hallway or landing
- Store the battery and charger out of direct sunlight and away from hot locations
- Don't charge the battery in direct sunlight or in a hot location
- Don't cover the battery or charger when charging
- Don't overload sockets or use extension leads

- Always unplug the charger once you have finished charging your e-bike or e-scooter
- Don't charge the battery close to combustible materials or hazardous substances
- If your e-bike or e-scooter battery can be removed and charged separately, make sure it's charged in a well-ventilated area and on a flat surface to enable heat to disperse

Fire hazard warning signs – immediately stop using or charging your battery if you notice any of the following:

- White smoke or white vapour cloud
- The battery feels very hot to touch
- The battery has swollen or you notice lumps or leaking coming from any part of the e-bike, e-scooter, battery or charger
- Hissing or cracking sounds coming from the battery
- Unusual or strong smell coming from the battery
- The battery takes longer to charge or does not fully charge



If you suspect your e-bike or e-scooter is a fire risk, stop using or charging it immediately. Contact the manufacturer or retailer you purchased the device from for further advice, and report your faulty device to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service [Contact the consumer helpline - Citizens Advice.](#)

If your e-bike or e-scooter starts to smoke or catches fire, raise the alarm, get out, stay out and call 999 immediately.

For more information, please contact tsadvice@westberks.gov.uk tel **01635 519930** or scan the QR code below:



Notes:

The Public Protection Partnership (PPP) is a shared service delivering Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards to over 450,000 people and 10,000 businesses on behalf of two authorities (Partners), Bracknell Forest Council and West Berkshire Council. In addition, PPP provide Trading Standards Services to Wokingham Borough Council.

Website: www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk

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