



e-scooters; the rules

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The rules

Electrically powered scooters are being seen increasingly in our towns and cities, both rental scheme and privately owned scooters. You can ride on our roads legally within designated areas if you have hired an e-scooter from an approved rental scheme. However, the same is not true for privately-owned e-scooters.

Under current legislation, you can only ride a privately owned e-scooter on private land with the landowner's permission. It means you cannot ride it in any public area, including roads, foot paths and parks. If you are using a private e-scooter in any public place, police can seize it and you could also be liable for prosecution for traffic offences and even receive points on your driving licence because, like other motor vehicles, they are subject to traffic law.

Risks include:

- Lack of maintenance affecting braking and tyre performance.
- Charging of devices in the home introduces fire risk, especially if batteries have become damaged or wet.
- Scooters can easily over balance on bumps or holes due to their small wheels.
- Handling can be unpredictable, especially when reacting to hazards.
- There can be a temptation to ride while intoxicated or distracted.



Renting

A number of rental schemes have been set up in towns and cities in the UK, including Chelmsford, Braintree, and Colchester through a contract with Essex County Council. These schemes allow people to use rented e-scooters legally.

To use these schemes, you must:

- Be aged 18 or over.
- Hold a UK driving licence.
- Only ride on roads and cycle-paths within the hire scheme areas, pavement riding is not permitted.
- Not carry passengers or allow others to use a scooter you have hired. Wearing a helmet is highly recommended, and riders have the same responsibility to obey traffic laws as anyone driving a car.



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