

E-Bike Laws & Safety Tips

What is an E-Bike?

An electric bicycle (e-bike) is a bicycle equipped with an **electric motor** that assists with pedaling or provides throttle power.

California law classifies e-bikes into three categories based on speed and assist type.



	DESCRIPTION	MAX SPEED	MIN. AGE	HELMET
PEDAL BIKE	Pedal only	Speed Limit	No minimum	Required under 18
CLASS 1	Pedal assist only	20 mph	No minimum	Required under 18
CLASS 2	Pedal & Throttle assist	20 mph	No minimum	Required under 18
CLASS 3	Pedal assist only	28 mph	16+	Required for all ages

✓ Driver's license, registration, or insurance **NOT** required for e-bikes.

✗ It is illegal to modify an e-bike to increase speed without updating its class label.

E-MOTORCYCLES KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

E-Motorcycles are fully electric motor-powered vehicles designed for higher speeds without the need for pedaling.

E-Motorcycles can only be ridden on approved Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation areas. **The City of San Diego does not have any authorized OHV areas for e-motorcycles.**

License Required: E-Motorcycles are not generally street legal. Operation on a roadway requires a valid motorcycle license, registration from California DMV, and insurance.

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Where can you ride?



E-Bikes are allowed on bike lanes, roads, and most bike paths. Class 3 may have extra restrictions on bike paths.



Not on sidewalks, near businesses or crosswalks (for pedestrians only).



Ride in the same direction as traffic and use bike lanes when available.

Safety & Traffic Laws

Obey all traffic signs and signals. Bicyclists must obey all traffic laws like a motor vehicle.

Stop at stop signs and lights.

Passengers only allowed if the bike is designed for it.

Helmet required for riders under 18 (all ages for Class 3).

Do not ride against traffic.

RIDE SMART.

RIDE SAFE.

RIDE LEGAL.