

# E-BIKE, E-SCOOTER, E-MOTO, OH MY!

Considerations for after you have determined that your child knows the rules of the road and is ready for an E-bike

Virginia Tech  
Helmet Ratings



## 1 THE PROPER HELMET IS ESSENTIAL

Wearing a helmet is recommended for any bicycle use, including E-bikes, because even a crash at low speed can result in head injuries if unprotected. Virginia Tech has a list of recommended helmets for E-bike users- see QR code above for the 4-5 star helmets on the E-bike tab.

## 2 KNOW WHAT YOU BOUGHT OR WHAT YOU ARE BUYING

E-motos/E-motorcycles can be propelled by a throttle only, and their speed and acceleration exceed all legal E-bikes. Therefore, they are more dangerous. E-motos often cost less and companies take advantage of consumers not knowing the difference between an E-bike and an E-moto.

## 3 AVOID OVERCHARGING

Overcharging E-bikes, E-motos, or E-scooters can lead to fires. Unplug batteries when they are fully charged. Store batteries out of direct sunlight and in a cool, dry place. If a battery has been damaged, it should be safely discarded and replaced.



# Is Your Child Ready for an E-bike?

## Check your child:

### **Age check:** Are they 12+?

Under 12 years → No e-bikes  
 12-15 years → Class 1 e-bikes only  
Pedal assist ≤ 20 mph

### **Helmet check:** Do they have the right kind of helmet? Will they wear it every time they ride?

*If you ride any class of e-bike, wear a high-quality helmet made for higher speeds.*

*Look for one with an ASTM F1952, NTA 8776, or DOT label.*

### **Skill check:** Can they ride a regular bike confidently and brake smoothly?

### **Judgment check:** Will they follow the rules of the road/trail and avoid risky choices? *Ex: speeding, using their phone (texting/calling/scrolling), or friends pushing limits*

### **Bike check:** Does the e-bike fit them (reach brakes, feet stable, easy control)?



## Check the environment:

### **Traffic check:** Do they consistently follow road rules and watch for cars?


### **Route check:** Is the route low-traffic with safe crossings and bike lanes?

### **Policy check:** Is your child old enough to ride in your community (some have age restrictions by class of e-bike)? Does your community have laws restricting e-bikes on sidewalks, bike paths, or roads?

## Check your household:

### **Rules check:** Have you set clear family rules before the first ride?

### **Charging check:** Does your child know where they can safely charge their e-bike battery?

 *Not in their room, not charging overnight*

### **Insurance check:** Will you be covered if your child is in a crash?

*Many homeowners policies require a special e-bike policy to cover injury to others and property damage*

#EbikeParentCheck

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TRAINERS FOR CHILD INJURY PREVENTION

## Michigan Law

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Minimum age to operate	None	None	14
Rider required to wear helmet	No	No	Yes, if ages 14-18 years
Rider must pedal for motor to engage	Yes	No	Yes
Maximum speed for motor assist	20	20	28