

BUYING YOUR CHILD AN E-BIKE FOR CHRISTMAS: A GUIDE

SO YOUR CHILD HAS ASKED FOR AN E-BIKE FOR CHRISTMAS.

They're not alone! E-bikes are incredibly popular with kids and teens right now, offering independence, speed and agility.

But Australia currently has a major problem with thousands of illegal, unregulated and dangerous e-bikes circulating unchecked. These 'e-bikes' are essentially motorcycles and they've recently been in the news for all the wrong reasons.

Far too many young riders and road users have suffered serious injury and death as a result of

using these illegal e-bikes. States across Australia are now fining users, issuing defect notices and confiscating illegal bikes – but it's better not to give your child access to begin with.

Here's a short guide to how to identify a safe, legal e-bike and keep the young people in your life safe.

Take this guide with you when shopping to ensure you're choosing something appropriate for your child – and as always, ensure they also have a quality helmet and lights.

WHAT IS A LEGAL E-BIKE

- Pedal-assist only (i.e., you must pedal the bike for it to run; does not depend on a throttle)
- Has a motor up to 250W
- Motor stops assisting once the bike reaches 25km/h
- Reaches recognised safety standards, especially EN15194
- Brand-name battery (e.g., Shimano, Bosch)
- Looks and handles like a standard bicycle

WHAT IS AN ILLEGAL E-BIKE

- Has a throttle with a speed of over 6km/h
- Has a motor over 250W
- Motor assists beyond a speed of 25km/h
- Marketed as 'off-road only' or 'private property' models
- Cheap online import with no safety standards
- Non-brand-name battery
- Looks like a motorbike

WHY DOES SAFETY STANDARD EN15194 MATTER?

EU e-bike standards (EN15194) are the most trusted and widely adopted safety standards in the world. They ensure:

- Bike safety (the bike must meet strict electrical, braking and construction standards)
- Battery safety (batteries are rigorously tested for overheating, fire risk, water resistance and charger safety)
- Anti-tampering protections (the bike must have protected speed-control systems so it cannot be modified to go faster than 25km/h).

WHERE SHOULD I BUY AN E-BIKE?

Always buy from a reputable bike shop, not online marketplaces. Ask the staff for something that fits the checklist above.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK BEFORE I BUY? (Answers should ALL be yes)

- ✓ Is this bike EU-compliant and certified to EN15194?
- ✓ Is the bike pedal-assist?
- ✓ Is the motor wattage 250W or less
- ✓ Does the motor stop assisting once the bike reaches 25km/h?
- ✓ Does the bike have a brand-name battery?
- ✓ Does the bike look and handle like a standard bicycle?



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