



Ride Prepared

A field guide to e-bike rules in Lakewood

Are E-Bikes Legal Here?

Yes — as long as your bike:

- Meets the state definition (≤ 750 W motor, pedals, one of 3 classes)
- Is ridden where state and city rules allow
- Meets equipment & safety requirements

No license, registration, or insurance is required for a compliant e-bike. Exceed the wattage or class limits, and it's legally a motor vehicle instead.

COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

- Motor 750 W or less
- Bike labeled with class, speed & wattage
- Riding where that class is allowed
- Helmet worn — required for every rider in Lakewood
- Rider meets the age minimum for the class
- Parks: paved roads/lots only, 15 mph max



E-BIKE SAFETY GUIDE



KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE

A Lakewood Parks and Police Department Community Safety Initiative



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What Counts as an E-Bike?

- Two or three wheels, with seat and pedals
- Electric motor of 750 watts or less
- Falls into one of three classes (RCW 46.04.169)

Class	How it works	Max Speed
1	Pedal-assist	20 mph
2	Throttle + pedal	20 mph
3	Pedal-assist Requires Speedometer	28 mph

E-Bike or Motorcycle?

-	E-Bike	Motorcycle
Pedals	Required	Not present
Motor cap	750 W max	No cap
License/plates	N/A	Required
RCW	46.04.169	46.04.330

Where can you ride?

- Roads & bike lanes — all classes, treated like regular bicycles
- Shared-use paths — Classes 1 & 2 generally fine; Class 3 usually restricted
- Sidewalks & dirt trails — limited; check local rules before riding

Age Rules

- E-bike Classes 1 & 2 - no min. age
- E-bike Class 3 - rider must be at least 16
- Motorcycle - requires a motorcycle endorsement (age 16+) plus registration & insurance

Helmets: Two Different Laws

E-BIKES

- No statewide helmet law for e-bikes or bicycles
- State law (RCW 46.37.530) still requires e-bike riders to follow the bicycle-helmet rules that apply locally
- In Lakewood, that local rule makes a helmet mandatory for every rider, regardless of age (LMC 10.22.020)

MOTORCYCLES

- Statewide helmet law with no exceptions — RCW 46.37.530
- Every operator and passenger wears a DOT-approved helmet, chin/neck strap fastened, whenever the bike is moving
- Applies to motorcycles, mopeds & motor-driven cycles alike — including electric motorcycles

Good to Know

- Talk with kids about helmets, speed & safe riding — Lakewood PD leads with education first
- State law sets the baseline; Lakewood's helmet and park rules go further

Equipment & Safety

- E-bikes: permanent label with class, speed & wattage; working brakes; lights at night
- Motorcycles: mirrors, headlight/taillight, horn, plate, turn signals; eye protection if no windshield

E-Bikes in Lakewood Parks

- No park trails are currently open to motorized use — e-bikes stay on paved roads, parking lots & designated areas
- 15 mph speed limit in parks; always ride at a safe speed for conditions
- Electric dirt bikes and similar high-power devices can count as "motor vehicles" under city code and face the same restrictions

Penalties

- Park rule violations: civil infraction, fines up to \$125
- Riders may be asked to leave a park for unsafe behavior
- Citations possible for riding in other prohibited areas
- Impound for bikes operating illegally as unregistered motor vehicles