

low-powered vehicles

Do you own or ever ride a small motor scooter, bicycle with an electric motor, "pocket bike" or other small low-powered vehicle? While they might not look that different, some are legal for on-road use and some aren't. Driving an unlicensed or uninsured vehicle on B.C. roads could result in a ticket and driving without insurance could have serious financial consequences.

Permitted on roads:

Limited-speed motorcycle (small motor scooter)

Must be registered, licensed and insured. May be operated with any class of driver's licence. Cannot be operated on a learner's licence other than a Class 6 or 8 motorcycle learner's licence. Riders are required by law to wear a motorcycle helmet.



A limited-speed motorcycle is defined as:

- No more than 50 cc engine displacement or 1.5 kw motor rating.
- Does not require clutching or shifting after the drive system is engaged.
- Has a maximum speed on level ground of 70 km/h.
- Weighs no more than 95 kg excluding fuel and batteries.
- Wheels must be 25.4 cm in diameter or more.

Electric motor-assisted cycle*

A motor-assisted cycle is a two- or three-wheeled cycle with a seat, pedals and an electric motor. Does not require registration, vehicle licence or insurance. Operator does not require driver's licence but must be 16 years of age or older.



- Operator is required by law to wear a bicycle helmet.
- May be operated on the road like any bicycle, except where municipal bylaws restrict operation.
- The motor must be electric and have a total combined rated output of not more than 500 watts and be incapable of propelling the cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/h on level ground, without pedaling.

NOTE: Gas-powered cycles and electric cycles without attached pedals don't qualify as an electric motor-assisted cycle. That means they cannot be used on-road as they can't pass a provincial motor vehicle inspection and therefore cannot be registered, licensed or insured for on-road use.

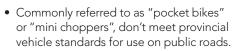
* Further details can be found in the Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation, BC Reg. 151/2002.

Not permitted on roads:

Scooter, motorized skateboard or self-balancing board

- May only be operated where B.C.'s Motor Vehicle Act doesn't apply, such as private property that does not have public vehicle access or on a trail or pathway if allowed by a municipal bylaw.
- Not to be operated on a public sidewalk adjacent to a roadway.

Pocket bikes (mini motorcycles)





 They are prohibited under the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations due to their wheel size, wheel base and seat height.



Permitted on sidewalks, walkways, crosswalks, and paths:

Motorized wheelchair

Does not require registration, vehicle licence, insurance or driver's licence.

 Motorized wheelchairs are treated similarly to pedestrians and may be operated anywhere that pedestrians are permitted to walk.

Safety tips for operating motorized wheelchairs

- Ride only where it's safe and follow the same rules and guidelines as pedestrians.
- Use courtesy and think safety.
- Drive at the same speed as other pedestrian traffic.
- Be extra cautious of possible traffic as you approach driveways and laneways.
- Try to avoid sudden turns.
- Avoid using your motorized wheelchair if you're taking any medication, drugs or alcohol that may affect your skills or judgment.



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