

Go-peds - what's the law?

Go-peds, citybugs, buzz-boards and motorised skateboards are the most recent noisy additions to our streets and open spaces. However most riders are unaware of the laws relating to their use.

Go-peds should not be sold as being suitable for use on the road, and people selling them should make buyers aware of the legal requirements.

If they are used on the road, they are considered to be a mechanically propelled vehicle, and subject to the same laws as motorcycles.

To use a go-ped legally on the road, you must follow **all** of the 'Ride Legal' rules that apply to motorcycles. These can be found on the back panel of this leaflet.

Go-peds may be used in private gardens or on land where the rider has been given permission by the landowner. Please be aware however that these machines may cause a nuisance to your neighbours.

Complaints regarding the use of go-peds on the road or footpath, illegal motorcycling and dangerous riding should be directed to the Police.

If you have any information about persons causing noise and disturbance please contact Environmental Services on 01992 564610. Any information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Any information received may be shared between the Police and Environmental Services.

Ride legal.

- 🛵 You need a driving licence to ride a motorcycle on the road. Learners cannot ride a motorcycle over 125cc until passing a test, unless over 21 years of age and on a direct access course.
- 🛵 A motorcycle needs insurance to be in any public place, whether the motorcycle is being ridden or only being pushed.
- 🛵 If your bike is over 3 years old, make sure it has a valid MOT Test certificate. This applies if the motorcycle is being ridden or just being pushed on a road.
- 🛵 Make sure your bike has a registration number and a tax disc, even if it is only being pushed on the road.
- 🛵 To be legal on a road, a motorcycle needs all the usual equipment to be fitted and working. This includes lights, brakes, brake lights, horn, speedometer, good tyres etc. These are required even if the motorcycle is being pushed.
- 🛵 Wear an approved helmet.



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Epping Forest Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

Are you legal?

Motorcycles, mopeds, go-peds and scooters.



Are you legal? - motorcycles, mopeds, go-peds and scooters.

Epping Forest District Council is working in partnership with Essex Police to combat the problem of illegal motorcycling, mopeds, motorised skateboards and scooters.

This leaflet explains the legal requirements of owning one of these machines, using it on roads, other public places, and on private land.

The danger

Accidents involving these vehicles can cause serious injuries to riders, other road users and pedestrians. A person who rides dangerously and injures or kills someone else - a passenger, another road user or pedestrian - faces possible imprisonment.

Remember, the law requires crash helmets to be worn whilst riding your bike. They can save your life.

Powers to seize

Under the Police Reform Act 2002, the Police have the power to seize motor vehicles that are being used to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. This includes the use of motorcycles, 'go-peds', mopeds and quad bikes. Repeat offenders are warned that they may have their motor vehicle taken from them and disposed of and may have to pay the cost of recovery. Parents are warned that they might be responsible for paying fines incurred if a motor vehicle is seized from their child.

Think before you buy your child a motorised vehicle.

Noise Nuisance

Environmental Services have powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to take action in respect of a noise nuisance caused by unreasonable use of motor vehicles used off road. Following the service of a legal notice (an Abatement Notice) Environmental Services has the power to seize the offender's vehicle and take prosecution proceedings.

Damage - to land, parks and playing fields etc.

If you commit the offence of criminal damage you could be sued in the County Court for the cost of the damage. For example, a school playing field may be damaged because of ruts left behind by motorcycles. The rider responsible for the damage could be arrested, and if the owners take legal action, the rider may have to pay for the cost of the repairs.

Riding on land without permission

If a motorcycle is ridden in parks, on footpaths, fields and the like without the landowner's permission, the rider commits an offence of 'riding on land other than a road'. Noise nuisance offences are also applicable when riding on such land.

There may also be local by-laws in place prohibiting the activity. Riders are advised never to ride on land without the owner's permission.

What is a road?

We have seen that it can be an offence to 'ride on land other than a road' without the owner's permission. It is worth noting that, as well as the carriageway, footpaths alongside roads are considered as being part of the road. Therefore, pushing a motorcycle along the footpath means it is on the road, and all of the usual laws and requirements for street legal motorcycles apply. These include: tax, MOT, registration and insurance.

Please Note

If parents are the owners of a motorcycle, it can be classed as 'aiding and abetting' if they permit the illegal use of a motorcycle. Even if a parent just buys petrol for a motorcycle they then allow to be ridden illegally, they could be aiding and abetting the rider to commit offences. Owners can be prosecuted in addition to riders.

Supplying Petrol

Petrol must not be supplied to a person under the age of sixteen, and petrol must be supplied in a suitable container.

Illegal motorcycling can be fatal.

Your motorcycle may be confiscated.

It can lead to imprisonment.

It can cause noise and other disturbance.

So think twice before you buy!