

Portland Police Bureau

Motorized Scooters and the Law

***A helpful guide for
owners and parents***



<http://www.portlandpolicebureau.com>

Scooter Tips from the Chief

Scooting can be safe and fun. Your personal equipment and good judgment are the only protection you will have. Remember, a safe rider always wears a helmet. Check out the tips:

- Familiarize yourself with the scooter before you ride.
- Practice your body position before you ride on the streets.
- Be a cautious rider until you become familiar with the way the scooter handles.
- Take turns slowly and give yourself extra stopping distance.
- Make sure your scooter is in good working order.
- Do not make changes to your scooter which may make your scooter unsafe.

Learning these tips and keeping your scooter maintained may reduce chances for injury and can provide you with a better riding experience. Please scoot safely.

What is a motorized scooter

- Designed to be operated on the ground with no more than 3 wheels.
- Has handle bars, a foot support and/or operator seat.
- Equipped with a power source.
- Gas motors can be no more than 35cc.
- Electric motors can be no more than 1,000 watts.

Who can operate a motorized scooter

- Operator must be 16 years or older.
- Under 16 years of age are required to stay on private driveway or property. No public areas.

Required equipment

- Operator must wear an ODOT approved helmet.
- Limited visibility requires a white light visible to the front for 500 feet and a red reflector/light visible for 600 feet.
- Must have white or yellow reflectors mounted to scooter.

Where can you drive your scooter?

- Scooters can be driven on roadways with a speed of 25 mph or less, if a roadway is designated faster than 25 mph, it must have a designated bike lane, and bike lane must be used.

Rules to follow when operating your scooter

- Go no faster than 15 mph.
- Follow the flow of traffic.
- Only one person allowed on a scooter.
- No more than two scooters side by side.
- Ride as close to the right curb as possible except when in bike lane.
- Must use bike lane when provided.
- Must have at least one hand on the handlebar and be in control of the scooter at all times.
- Must signal to make a turn or when stopping.

Where scooters are not allowed

- **Crosswalks.** Operator must walk the scooter when crossing the street in a crosswalk.
- **Parks.**
- **Sidewalks.** Exception is when crossing the sidewalk to get to or from the street.
- Wheelchair users are exempt from these restrictions.

Operation of motorized scooter in a bike lane

- Must give audible signal when overtaking or passing a pedestrian.
- Must yield the right of way to pedestrians.

Your responsibilities as an operator

- Follow the rules of the road as any bike or car on the roadway.
- Know and obey the State of Oregon traffic laws.

Information courtesy of:



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