Information on eBikes

Definitions, Rules, and Classes

The question of what is an Electric Bike {eBike} might seem simple; but the bicycle industry and many governments are struggling with that. Meanwhile, millions of customers are using them everywhere, on streets, farms, beaches, parks, generally all over the world.

eBikes are regulated some places; and not in others. If you ride in regulated areas here is a good guide to laws https://www.peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes/state-laws

Note, Some cities have different rules than their respective states, some areas lack rules or enforcement. **It is up to each user to know their situation.**

Simple Summary of eBike Classes:

Class 1: Max electric assist speed 20 mph, motor operates solely while pedaling.
Class 2: Max electric assist speed 20 mph, includes throttles for non-pedaling use.
Class 3: Max electric assist speed up to 28 mph, may or may not have throttles
(Note: Throttle may not be allowed over 20 mph)

To add to the confusion; throttles can be unplugged on most eBikes with throttles PLUS most eBikes can be reprogrammed to change class or even 'hacked' to go over 28 mph. Some areas may want a sticker on an eBike that states its Class – since this can be changed, that sticker might change also. Standard versions of eBike Class stickers are online or printing one is not hard.

In summary, eBikes are very flexible, somewhere between standard bicycles and motorcycles. Care, expense, warranty, use, etc are between a bike and a motorcycle. Be sure to know your riding area rules and eBike use limits.

Care and Use of your eBike:

Most steps and methods of eBike care are like standard bikes. But average eBiker rides twice as often and four times as far as a standard bike rider. So upkeep may be more. Some eBike parts need special care – especially the Battery.

Here are some tips:

Battery Care: Easily the most the most important part. Google 'electric bike battery care' – there are hundreds of suggestions. Most are common sense.

We've found the following to be very important for your battery:

1 – never let it remain at zero charge for long
2 – never leave it on a charger longer than it takes to reach full charge
3 – keep it dry, clean, and stored at a temperature that is not too extreme
4 – don't store near household/pool chemicals or in enclosed space with such
5 – never use a third party, rebuilt or damaged battery or charger

Ideally, keep a battery between 80% and 20% voltage. Some find it easy to use a timer on their charger.

Most eBike riders are familiar with Batteries in phones, laptops, and other modern devices. On a quality eBikes; similar battery parameters apply.

Cleaning your eBike:

'Is it OK to ride my eBike in the rain?'. Yes, a high quality eBike like a standard bike or motorcycle; can ride in the rain; take extra care for yourself of course.

But, for cleaning, one **should not** use direct high-pressure water on a standard bike [or even a motorcycle]. This is doubly true on an eBike. Use a light flow of water or a clean wet cloth to get off dirt and grime. There are many guides on cleaning bikes online; rules on eBikes are the same.

Maintenance of eBikes:

Studies show that eBikes are ridden much more and go much further than most standard bikes [your mileage may vary]. eBikes are a bit more complicated than standard bikes.

We've seen minimal maintenance is needed on standard bikes and eBikes. [Our CEO has over 3000 miles on each of a Motobecane, a Gravity, and a Mango eBike – with zero repairs and almost no maintenance]. It is a good idea to check over and adjust any standard bike, eBike, or motorcycle at least once a year. A basic 'safety check' is a good idea before starting out [tire pressure, brakes work, etc].

Repairs of eBikes:

Quality eBikes are certainly worth repairing in most situations. The cost of such repairs can be more than standard bikes; but likely less than motorcycles. Normal repairs on eBikes are often simple and not frequent.

Two most common repairs we've seen are – [1] rear tires wear out quicker due to power and mileage [2] Dead batteries from over charging and leaving uncharged for months.

Helmets:

Of course, all sellers are told by lawyers to recommend helmets on bicycles, skateboards, motorcycles, roller blades, eScooters, pogo sticks, etc – eBikes are no different.

Which helmet? Bicycle or Motorcycle helmet? Bicycle helmets must be tested to 14 mph. Many people go way over 14mph on normal bikes [some over 50mph].

We do not know of any of our customers using motorcycle helmets on eBikes; but the guy that 'hacked' his eBike to ride at 45mph on his farm might need to.

Of course, this helmet decision is up to each rider and in some areas there maybe laws governing use of helmets.

Durability:

We get a fair number of questions such as "How long will an eBike last?" This makes sense; as standard bikes of the grade we sell last basically forever. You can almost always fix and continue to use any high-grade standard bike.

Quality eBikes can probably be kept running for almost as long as a standard bike. Same as motorcycles or cars, you can probably keep going for over 50 years. BUT how long is it worth it?

For cars, motorcycles, eBikes, and many other mechanical things; you can keep them working for decades but after about 10 years the juice might not be worth the squeeze. We think eBikes will develop a resale market like motorcycles and many new eBike users will sell their eBike after 5 years and move to the newest model. [like people do on cars and motorcycles].

Note From Our CEO

"I have been riding bikes over 65 years, motorcycles over 60 years, and eBikes over 5 years. It is hard to beat the feeling of being on 2 wheels. eBikes will add to the number of cyclists in the USA and that is fantastic. I think many people will end up having both a standard bike and an eBike and that cycling in general will only increase. Either type standard or electric; it is just too fun to be on a bike to resist"