



E-bikes, are they still a **HOT** item?

As the warmer days approach, we find ourselves wanting to be outside more. Enjoying a nice walk or maybe a little jog. Ever tried roller blading? How about skateboarding? Maybe putting on some new tires on that bicycle that's been hanging up in your garage for the past 2 years. Or maybe you been thinking of following the HOT trend of e-bikes!

Now, don't get me wrong, if I can get to point A to point B without peddling, sign me up! But with every new trend, you must look at the reviews! Now before running out and purchasing an e-bike, here are some facts and safety awareness. Let's take a closer look at how **HOT** these E-bikes really are.

- The first thing you'll notice about e-bikes is that they look a lot like normal bikes. They are very similar to regular bicycles, but with an electric motor.
- E-bikes might make your ride faster because they make pedaling feel effortless, allowing you to maintain your energy levels for a longer duration. Additionally, they also make it easier to maintain a constant rate and get back up to speed after coasting.
- Did you also know, safety experts caution that without proper education and training, e-bike users face a greater risk of injury or death in accidents. E-bikes are heavier and faster than regular bikes and can go faster due to their battery power. This makes them more dangerous than regular bicycles.
- A 2023 Consumer Product Safety Commission report found that injuries associated with devices like e-bikes increased 21% between 2021 and 2022, and at least 233 deaths between 2017 and 2022 were associated with micromobility devices. Children are especially vulnerable to injuries in e-bike accidents.

- Hospitals reported treating 53,200 e-bike-related injuries from 2017 to 2022. Injuries increased from 3,500 in 2017 to 24,400 in 2022, according to a study by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The study looked at injuries and deaths caused by micromobility devices, specifically e-bikes, e-scooters and hoverboards.

The study, analyzing data from 2017-2022, found:

- 360,800 injuries from micromobility devices, with a yearly increase of 23%.
- E-scooters and hoverboards were involved in 169,300 and 138,400 injuries, respectively.
- Almost half of e-bike injuries during the six-year period studied happened in 2022.
- 233 deaths related to micromobility device. The number of deaths rose from 5 in 2017 to 76 in 2022.
- Most e-bikes and e-scooters are powered by lithium-ion batteries. This is the same type of battery that powers many of today's electric vehicles, cell phones, laptops, and power tools.
- When lithium-ion batteries are damaged, they can overheat, catch on fire, and even lead to explosions. When fires occur, they also tend to burn very hot and can be difficult for firefighters to extinguish.
- Battery fires have also been associated with faulty charging equipment, improper charging practices, and overloaded electrical circuits. Some chargers will continue charge the battery once it's fully charged, which can cause the battery to expand and explode.

So, in conclusion if you still in the market of purchasing an e-bike, be sure to read the manual and be safe!

Videos on E-bikes:

E-scooter fires rise - fire chiefs warn of lithium battery dangers.

<https://youtu.be/oYiof2Kinvc?si=JI9RktydsDKdyenk>

E-Bike Batteries Are Catching Fire - How to know if you're Safe.

https://youtu.be/JnhBoSpzBrI?si=j9vs9C_IENQeG5T6