



Get the Facts: Staying Safe on Scooters

In a Nutshell

Scooters – whether foot-powered or electric-powered – are increasingly popular for fun and transportation. They're also a growing source of injuries.

What do I need to know about scooter safety?

There are more and more scooters of all kinds on paths and roads these days and that means more ER visits. Think before you jump on and always wear a helmet. And be sure kids are old enough to ride foot-powered scooters safely.

Recent data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission shows that ER visits related to e-scooters climbed to 25,400 in 2020. That's a 229.9% jump from 2017, when 7,700 were reported.

By using appropriate safety gear and following basic safety guidelines, most scooter-related injuries can be prevented.

Stay scooter safe

- Helmets are recommended for ALL scooter riders, with knee and elbow pads and wrist guards advised for children.
- Children ages 8 and under should not use foot-powered scooters without close adult supervision.
- In Minnesota, you must be older than 16 to ride an electric scooter. While no license is required, riders must follow laws similar to those for bicycles.
- Confine riding to parks with paved paths or neighborhoods with sidewalks.
- Use extra caution when crossing driveways.
- Ride scooters on smooth, paved surfaces free from traffic. Avoid riding on streets or surfaces with water, sand, gravel or dirt.
- Never ride a scooter at night.
- Never hitch a ride from a car, bus, truck, bicycle, etc.
- Limit use of the scooter to one person at a time.
- Visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website ([cpsc.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov)) for a complete list of recalls.





- Check the scooter often for hazards such as loose, broken or cracked parts; sharp edges on metal boards; slippery top surfaces and wheels with nicks and cracks. Defects should be corrected by a qualified repair person.

Sources:

National Safety Council

US Consumer Product Safety Commission

