

Important information for Middlesbrough residents who are thinking of buying an e-scooter

Key headlines to note

- Although you can buy an e-scooter **it is illegal to use privately owned e-scooters on roads or public areas**. They can only be used **on private land, and with the landowner's permission**.
- If you are stopped riding your own e-scooter on the road or public place, **it can be seized and you could face prosecution**, which may result in penalty points on your driving licence and a fine.

FAQs about the e-scooter trial in Middlesbrough

If e-scooters are illegal why can I hire one in Middlesbrough?

The Government and some Local Authorities have embarked on trials of e-scooters. Middlesbrough has hosted one of these trials since summer 2020. It is managed by a company called Ginger. The e-scooters provided through these managed trials are legal to use on a road as long as you abide by the conditions of hire and the law.

How old do I need to be to hire one?

At least 18 years old.

Do I need a driving licence to hire one?

Yes, you need a valid driving licence with a Category Q entitlement. A Full or Provisional UK licence for Categories AM, A or B includes Category Q. If you have one of these licences, you can use an e-scooter. If you have a provisional licence you do not need to display 'L' plates.

Do I need insurance?

e-scooters must have motor insurance. If you are using the rental scheme you do not need to arrange this, as insurance will be provided by Ginger, the e-scooter rental operator.

What should I wear?

It is recommended that you wear a cycle helmet, although it is not a legal requirement. If you do wear a helmet, make sure that it conforms to current regulations, is the correct size and is securely fastened. It is also recommended that you wear light-coloured or fluorescent clothing so that other road users can see you.

Where can I use a trial e-scooter?

In Middlesbrough the rental e-scooters can only be used where you can legally drive a car. You must not use them in areas designated for pedestrians – including on pavements or on footpaths. They cannot be used in parks or open spaces.

Are e-scooters motor vehicles?

e-scooters are classed as a 'powered transporter', and are covered by the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles.

Can I get points on my licence for misuse when riding an e-scooter?

Yes! You can get points on your licence for the misuse of an e-scooter, including enabling an underage rider. Drink/driving rules also apply. Do not drink and ride.

How fast can they go?

The Ginger e-scooters are limited to a maximum speed of 12 mph.

Who should I contact if I want to take part in the Middlesbrough e-scooter scheme?

[Middlesbrough — GINGER](#)

Where can I find more information about the trial?

[E-scooters | Middlesbrough Council](#)

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