WASTED LIVES

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Young Rider's Guide

A comprehensive guide to legal requirements, sound advice and good habits for young moped, scooter and motorcycle riders.

Becoming a rider comes with a new-found freedom on two wheels but it can be easy to hop on and ride off without thinking about safety. You may not know all of the things that you should be doing or checking before travelling on a public highway.

STREET LEGAL

When using a public highway, there are a number of legal requirements.
The rider must have:

- A provisional licence AT LEAST. Go to direct.gov.uk/motoring or take advice from an Approved Training Body,
- Completed their CBT (Compulsory Basic Training) - remember, a CBT only lasts for two years,
- Third party insurance as a minimum requirement. Carrying a pillion passenger on a provisional licence is illegal.

The bike must have:

- Full sized 'L' plates displayed front and rear, for bigger bikes (if you're over 19 years old) you can do Direct Access courses, go to direct.gov.uk/motoring
- A valid MOT, if the bike is more than three years old.

Remember:

- Sixteen year olds may only ride a 50cc 'restricted' moped. The engine must not be de-restricted,
- Moped tyres must have 'visible tread' across the whole of the tyre width. Motorcycles over 50cc must have 1mm across ¾ of the width of the tread pattern

STREET WISE

Every owner of a moped, scooter or motorcycle should take responsibility for their own machine. Refer to the manufacturer's maintenance manual for basic instructions.

The bike should also be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Learn the B.O.L.T.S. routine, check

Brakes ~ Oil ~ Lights ~ Tyres ~ Steering

- **Brakes** - turn off the engine, engage neutral, squeeze the brake lever and push firmly on the handlebars; the bike should not move forward. Then sit on, put pressure on the brake pedal and push firmly on the handlebars; the bike should not move forward.
- **Oil** - check oil levels when the fluid is cold and the bike is on a flat surface.
- **Lights** - should be secure, clean and working properly.
- **Tyres** - look for cracks, bulges, or any other damage to any part of the tyre. Learn how to maintain correct tyre inflation and check them regularly.
- **Steering** - ensure that the handlebars move freely without any grinding noises. If possible, put the bike on its centre stand and then stand in front of the bike. Squeeze the front wheel firmly between your calves. Rotate the handlebars and ensure that the wheel moves perfectly with the handlebars.

The few minutes it takes to make these checks could save a life.

STREET CRED

Riding can boost your street cred, but this should never be at the expense of your personal safety.

- Wearing a helmet and securing the chin strap are both legal requirements. The visor must carry the BSI Kite Mark.
- Wear a motorcycle jacket, trousers and gloves made from tough, abrasion-resistant materials and incorporating impact absorbing body armour around the elbows, shoulders, hips, knees and knuckles.
- Tough footwear is a must; ideally boots that protect the foot, sole and ankle. Ensure that straps and laces will not get caught in any moving parts.
- BE SEEN - wear bright colours in daylight and highly reflective materials at night and in poor visibility.
- Wasted Lives recommends the use of a properly fitted back protector at all times.

GO TO...

www.wastedlives.co.uk

www.gov.uk/motorcycle-theory-test

www.gov.uk/ride-motorcycle-moped

www.gov.uk/motorcycle-helmet-law