



# Micromobility Safety: E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and Hoverboards

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## Introduction

This guide outlines how to use and store micromobility devices safely on campus. Micromobility devices include electric bikes, scooters, and hoverboards.

These guidelines generally don't apply to power-driven mobility devices like wheelchairs and mobility aids. They support school and building policies and requirements.

## Before you Ride

- Watch the [Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\) public safety video](#).



- Review the [Harvard micromobility guide](#).
- Inspect your device for any damage, including the handlebars, brakes, throttle, bell, lights, tires, cables, and frame.
- Follow the manufacturer guidelines, including weight and age restrictions.

E-scooters are designed for adult use due to their size and speed. Accidents can be deadly, and children may lack adult caution and judgment.

## Basic Rider Safety

- Always wear a helmet.
- Keep both hands on the handlebars and don't put items on the handlebars.
- Limit the device to one rider at a time.
- Don't ride indoors, including in dorms and classroom hallways.
- Don't bring scooters into libraries or museums.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## On the Road

Micromobility devices are small, fast, and quiet, making it hard for others to see you, especially larger vehicles.

- Stay visible, especially in parking areas.
- Be cautious and assume drivers and pedestrians can't see you.
- Be aware of your surroundings and slow down.
- Use a bell or horn to signal your presence.
- Avoid making sudden movements.
- Don't perform stunts, which can damage devices and pose risks to yourself and others.
- Don't listen to music; it can distract you and make it hard to hear your surroundings. For example, you



could crash into a bicyclist trying to pass you.

## Road Surfaces and Obstacles

- Avoid riding over objects and uneven surfaces that could cause you to stop suddenly, which can throw you off.
- When riding over bumps, slow down and lean back.

## Parking and Storage

Building management may remove improperly stored devices.

- Follow the manufacturer's storage instructions.
- Whenever possible, store scooters and bikes outdoors.

If you must store them indoors, keep them away from doors, windows, and stairways. Always keep these routes clear so you can escape, and emergency responders can enter.

- Park in a designated parking area, a rack, or your dorm room.

Park devices upright, and don't park in a way that obstructs accessible pathways, building entrances and exits, driveways, fire safety equipment, or emergency egress paths.

When storing lithium-ion batteries and the devices they power:

- When possible, store them at room temperature.
- Don't leave them in a hot car, direct sunlight, or freezing temperatures.
- Keep them away from combustible materials.



## Batteries and Safe Charging

All batteries on campus must meet underwriters' laboratory (UL) standards.<sup>1</sup>

Aftermarket and generic accessories can cause serious lithium-ion battery fires.

To mitigate this risk:

- Only use the charger that came with your device, designed specifically for it. This includes the battery, charging cable, and power adapter.
- Only use approved replacement battery packs.
- Never use a device with a battery pack that's modified or reworked by unqualified personnel, or with repurposed or used cells.
- Dispose of lithium batteries by taking them to your local battery recycler or hazardous waste collection center. Don't dispose of them in the trash or general recycling.
- Don't charge shared devices, including Lime and Bird scooters, on Harvard property or inside Harvard-owned or operated buildings.

To safely charge your device:

1. Read and follow the manufacturer's charging instructions.
2. Plug the charger directly into a wall outlet. Don't plug it into a power strip or extension cord.
3. Place your device on a hard, stable surface while charging. Don't charge devices on beds, couches, or pillows.
4. Don't leave the device unattended while charging. Don't charge devices while you are sleeping.

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<sup>1</sup> UL standards ensure the safety of lithium-ion batteries and battery-operated products. They include UL 2849 for electric bikes and UL 2272 for electrical systems in personal electric mobility devices, such as hoverboards.



5. Disconnect the charger once your device is fully charged to prevent overcharging.

## Learn More

- [CPSC Safety Alert](#)
- [Massachusetts Lithium-Ion Battery Safety](#)