Scooter Buying Guide

Courtesy of Scooters @ DirectSupplyDeals.com

Gas Scooters

Gas scooters are an exciting and fun way to get from one point to another. They are also called power boards and can get you farther, faster and cleaner when compared to any other vehicle. They are lightweight, stylish, portable and cost or energy efficient. Gas scooters are affordable; thus a good alternative for recreational or sporting activities and local commutes.

Gas scooters won't last long without proper care and maintenance. The scooter normally uses a 2 stroke engine for excellent power. 2 stroke engine don't need oil changes but it is recommended that a quality 2 stroke oil be mixed with the gasoline that will be filled in the gas tank. This mixture will ensure that your engine will give you reliable service and stay lubricated for a long time.

To achieve the mixture, you should purchase 2 stroke oil at any hardware or auto parts store and mix it with the gas in a separate container. Your mixture must be 25: 1 ratio; too lean of a mixture can make the engine run too hot. This may result in permanent damage to the engine. A too rich mixture on the other hand can lessen the engine performance and may lead to fouled spark plugs. At 25:1 ratio, you are ensured of the maximum performance of your gas scooter.

There are various parts of the scooter that are worth noting. One is the spark plug which is a vulnerable and crucial part of the 2 stroke

engine. This can be under a protective rubber boot on the engines top and comes with a tool kit which contains a wrench specifically for this purpose. Your spark plugs must always be clean and should be replaced immediately once any sign of wear begins to appear.

The spark plug can serve as an indicator of the condition of the scooters motor. The standard color of a spark plug is gold or light brown. If electrodes appear white, this is one of the signs that your scooter is running very hot; this condition may be due to a too lean oil and fuel mixture. A black sparkplug can be a result of a too rich scooter that is covered with carbon, gas or oil.

Another part of your gas scooter is the air filter which is located in front of the engine with a protective cover. It cleans the air going into the engine. Regular cleaning of the filter is advisable to prevent any damage brought about by abrasive particulates and dirt. If the air filter has contaminants, it may be cleaned in a gasoline container. Just let the filter dry before re-installing it on your scooter.

The chain is still an important part of your scooter. Before riding your scooter, it must always be lubricated and checked regularly for tightness. A loose chain creates a popping sound and may cause the scooter to jerk under acceleration. A binding and noisy sound is created on the other hand by a very tight chain and can be felt when you push the scooter once the motor is off.

Of course, all scooters aren’t complete without the tires. It is vital that tires are properly inflated before riding. Low pressure tires can make the scooter appear sluggish; you can feel its loss of power thereafter.

The throttle is also a vital component of the gas scooter. The two types of throttles are hand and twist. These throttles are basically the same mechanically although it differs in the operation. To ensure a smooth operation of this cable, free it from any obstructions and keep it clean.

Now that you know some basic parts of the scooter, the next question will be what will fit you? There are various types of gas scooters. The primary concern is where and when will you use it; off road or on road?

On road gas scooters are very popular and can be used in going to school, the office or the store and even in racing! There are those

which can hit 45 to 50 miles per hour and the wheels of these street scooters can be 6 to 10 inches.

Off road scooters on the other hand have more robust suspension systems and stronger reinforced frames. These kinds of gas scooters allow enthusiasts to race through dirt tracks and trails since it can handle this kind of abuse. They come with fat knobby tires with sizes from 8 to 10 inches.

Gas scooters can definitely save your day! With its beneficial features and stylish designs, you can enjoy every ride and every place you visit. So why wait? Grab your own gas scooter and enjoy the ride!

Electric Scooters

If you want to save yourself from insane gas prices, consider buying an electric scooter. Electric scooters have fair prices and are good for a distance of 20 to 30 miles.

Electric scooters aren't only limited to travelers. These scooters are also useful for people suffering from mobility problems who can't travel far distances. There are those which are well-designed for ease of operation, convenience and comfort.

These are some of the well known brands of scooters such as the Pride Mobility Electric Scooter Series. The price of the Price Mobility Electric Scooter Series starts from $1,999.00 up. Another brand is Shop Rider Mobility Series with prices ranging from $1,349 up. The Shoprider Xtralite 4 Portable Mobility Electric Scooter at $835 and Phantom 3 Wheel Scooter at a price of $749 and higher are other popular brands.

These brands differ in weight, seat, design, speed and capacity. There are added features such as headlight packages to provide you with pathway illumination. There are also innovations with regards to leg room, body styling, rear and anti-tip wheel and front basket.

There are still more brands of scooters than the ones listed above. Scooter features may be important but there is still one vital fact that shouldn't be neglected which is the life of the battery and charging time. Generally, sizes of the battery can vary from 12 amperes to 100 amperes.

The variations definitely have considerable difference in the maximum range. Large batteries can go for a distance of 40 kilometers in just one charging while the smallest electric scooters can travel for only 15 kilometers. Average sized electric scooters on the other hand can travel for more or less around 25 kilometers. Take note however that there are other factors that can add to the distance a scooter can travel such as your weight, other items loaded on the scooter, the terrain and the weather. Normally, the power of the battery is good for just one day.

You may also ask the question of how long must the battery be charged. Usually, two 12 volt dry and deep cycle batteries are utilized by all scooters. The batteries can be gel cell based or lead acid. The performance of these batteries are best when regularly charged. It is recommended to charge them after use or every night. You must not wait for it to drain before re-charging, since it will last longer when charged at once.

Modern chargers have an automatic cut out feature which means that you can leave it charging without fear of over charging. Once your battery achieves the necessary charge, charging will be completely cut out. Another important thing to think about is how long will the battery last. This will generally depend on the usage of the electric scooter but there are several other factors that can contribute to shorten its life such as the type, how often it is charged, the inclines and terrain the scooter travels, the load it is carrying and others.

Normally, a heavy user or those using the scooter 5 times a week, can use a battery for a year. Occasional drivers which use their scooters once or twice a week can keep the battery life for 5 years. It is advisable to change your batteries every two to three years. A 1-year warranty comes with every purchase of batteries. These only cover manufacturers defects and don’t include the normal wearing out of your electric scooter.

Riding an electric scooter is a fun and exciting activity everyone will love. Although scooters are just prototypes of those big motorcycles, good designs can add maturity to your vehicle. Superior performances of numerous electric scooters are so impressive like the electric deceleration system and linear power delivery; these all add to the ease of use and fantastic maneuvering.

Electric scooters are very useful in our everyday activities since they can speed up our routine of going to places such as markets, parks,

and so on. The best thing is that they are a lot cheaper than vehicles which need to be fueled again and again. Buying one is a good move! Just be sure that it comes from a reliable manufacturer and carries a good warranty.

Mobility Scooters

Mobility scooters have made it possible for people with disabilities to be more independent and have the ability to move around unencumbered. Now that mobility scooters are available in a variety of designs and features to fit unique requirements, more and more seniors and people who have special needs are using them as a means of transport.

What are mobility scooters?

Mobility scooters are especially designed motorized scooters for people who have difficulties walking. Mobility scooters are primarily used as mobility aids and have a strong similarity to wheelchairs. They can either be gas operated scooters or electric scooters.

The first mobility scooter was built by an American named Allan Thieme in Michigan. This was in 1968 and Thieme called it the Amigo, a front wheel drive vehicle that he designed to help a relative who suffered from multiple sclerosis, a debilitating disease that significantly limits a person's mobility. Today, the mobility scooter is available in a wide variety of models, ranging from small travel scooters to larger, heavy duty vehicles.

Types of mobility scooters

Mobility scooters come in numerous models, although they generally fall into three types. These are the portable scooters, the mid-sized scooters and the bulkier Class 3 models.

Portable scooters are those used temporarily or during travel. These scooters are foldable allowing for easy storage in cars and other modes of transportation. While convenient, they only provide about 10 miles of usage between charges and are often the slowest of all mobility scooter types.

Mid-sized mobility scooters are larger than portable scooters, allowing users to travel about 15 to 20 miles between charges. These are often the preferred mode of transportation for people who regularly use mobility scooters.

Class 3 scooters are the biggest type of mobility scooters. They may be used to travel comfortably on different types of roads, including pavement and dirt roads, because they are built with better suspension. They can reach speeds of about 8 mph and have longer travel ranges between charges. These are heavier models, however and their bulk often makes them a little more difficult to maneuver than smaller scooters.

What are the features of mobility scooters?

A mobility scooter, like a wheelchair, has a cushioned seat located on the rear part of the vehicle. It has a flat, stable floor and a handlebar for control. It has two wheels in the rear and can have either one or two wheels in front.

Mobility scooters may be powered by gasoline and are usually very efficient because they don't require much fuel to run. These days, however, gas-powered scooters are gradually being replaced by rechargeable electric models.

Electric models are powered by built-in batteries. Charging the scooter is done through the attached charger unit, although other models come with a separate or detachable charger. These units may be charged using conventional electric outlets.

How comfortable are mobility scooters?
Generally, larger mobility scooters are more comfortable than smaller models, especially those labeled 'deluxe'. These models come with adjustable seats and headrests and usually feature more controls.

Maneuverability of mobility scooters

Mobility scooters use key ignitions to start. The controls for the vehicle are kept on the handlebars. Generally, the right handlebar controls the forward motion of the vehicle while the left handlebar controls the reverse. If necessary, this setup may be reconfigured to accommodate left-handed users. Most mobility scooters have adjustable tillers in the front portion of the vehicle so they can be brought closer to the user for better control.

In terms of ease of use, three-wheeled scooters are easier to maneuver than four-wheeled types, although the latter tend to be more stable. A scooter's power source is usually provided by a pair of 12-volt batteries. In electric models, electro-magnetic brakes are used to stop the vehicle, with an emergency brake found on the handlebars for extra security.

Can mobility scooters be used in sports or as utility vehicles? Because of the way they look, mobility scooters are often mistaken as utility scooters. Actually, some folks may use these scooters successfully for other purposes, such as riding them to go to the nearby grocery store, pick up mail, walk the dog, visit a house down the block, etc. They are also perfect as an alternative to walking on foot if it is too uncomfortable or inconvenient.

For sports, however, mobility scooters might not perform as well for several reasons. They have limited maneuverability which can present a challenge when used in sports. Most scooter models aren't that fast and may prove to be too heavy.

Kick Scooters

What used to be a childhood toy has gone mainstream, invading streets and urban areas. The humble kick scooter is more popular now than ever, competing in a robust industry ruled by tiny wheels. It's not about to win over the more aggressive skateboard in terms of street popularity but the kick scooter is definitely not just for kids anymore. These days, more and more kick scooters are being designed to target adult consumers.

What is a kick scooter?

A kick scooter, as its name implies, is a small wheeled platform used to propel the user forward with or without the use of a motor. Most kick scooters are a flat deck with two wheels while some designs feature three or four. The kick scooter is the grandfather of the modern skateboard. The earliest appearance of the skateboard was in the 40s when people began removing the handles of their toy scooters to allow for a more challenging ride.

The first kick scooters appeared about a hundred years ago in areas where urban industrialization had taken place. They were homemade toys initially, which later evolved into the handmade version before they were finally mass produced. The platform on which the rider stood and balanced himself was made of wood to which skate wheels with ball bearings were attached. A handle attached to the wooden platform high enough to be gripped comfortably by the user finished the design.

As can be expected, the initial kick scooter look was rather crude, far from the sophisticated designs we are so used to seeing today. Because of the materials used and the way they were constructed, the kick scooters of yesteryears were also noisy, which ironically made them rather 'safe' to use in the streets, since they were difficult to ignore.

Today, most kick scooters are made from aluminum, with some models using a combination of wood and fiberglass and sturdy polyurethane wheels.

How fast can kick scooters go?

Non-motorized kick scooters can be slower than motorized scooters depending on the rider. Speed also varies depending on several factors such as head wind and slope. When it comes to inclines, motorized scooters are definitely much more efficient compared to non-motorized ones. On average, electric or motorized scooters can be as fast as bicycles, with speeds reaching 10 mph.

Advantages of a kick scooter

A kick scooter can offer one of the fastest ways to travel short distances (1 mile or less). A mile, for example, will probably take a healthy, fit adult about 20 minutes to cover. Using a kick scooter, that would probably take about 5 to 7 minutes.

A kick scooter can be an efficient ride, provided you know how to balance on it. Once purchased, it's virtually free to use, unless you're using a motorized version. Modern kick scooters are also designed to be faster, more maneuverable and sturdier. Most kick scooters can handle 200 pounds confidently while tougher versions can handle even heavier loads.

As for stunts, a kick scooter probably doesn't have the same flexibility as the skateboard although more experienced riders can confidently use them for faster and trickier rides. Hopping on the platform while riding the kick scooter is also remarkably safe with most models, since actual failure loads are remarkably high, ranging from 2,000 lbs. to 3,000 lbs. or more.

Another advantage of kick scooters is that they are light and easy to carry around. They are also very easy to store, especially the portable folding models. Unlike bicycles, they can also be carried around comfortably.

Limitations of kick scooters

For now, kick scooters can't go as fast as bicycles. In transit, there are also certain limitations for use. Safety gear are also required when riding kick scooters. Check with your local agency about how and where kick scooters are allowed in your area.

Who uses a kick scooter?

Just about anyone who can maintain their balance and wants to travel short distances faster can use the kick scooter, since it comes in different sizes and styles. From children to full grown adults, kick scooters may be used both as a toy and as a utility vehicle. Many school age children, for example, ride kick scooters to school while some professionals use kick scooters to navigate the streets and avoid traffic.

Kick scooters can also be used by riders who intend to graduate to skateboards. Kick scooters can help the user familiarize himself using a moving platform and then later begin using the handle-less skateboard comfortably.

Snow Scooters

If you live in an area where you enjoy several inches of good snow a few months each year, it's probably a crime if you don't make use of all that white powder to have fun. Since you've had your fill of snow sleds and toboggans, why not try a snow scooter instead? They're

more sturdy, offer a comfortable ride and allow you to maneuver at faster speeds up and down those frosty hills.

What is a snow scooter?

A snow scooter is a slimmed-down version of the bigger, bulkier snow mobile. This is a motorized vehicle that allows up to three passengers at one time and is designed specifically to propel itself over snowy or icy terrain. It is composed of a flat platform, a seat, handlebars, and a chain motor.

The snow scooter is usually powered by a gas motor although electric models are also available. It features a drive assembly allowing first and second gear shifts so the vehicle can be driven over different ice-covered surfaces using a chain motorized track assembly.

Advantages of the snow scooter

The snow scooter is often used in recreational activity, although its main purpose is as a mode of practical transportation over snowy terrain. They are convenient to use and easier to maneuver, allowing easy open-air driving over snow and ice. They may also be used during weather conditions such as snow drifts and blizzards.

Snow scooters are also utilized in rescue operations because of their size and operability allowing easy use in areas where bigger snow vehicles can't readily access. They allow immediate transport of one or two personnel for emergency situations. They are also designed for high speed travel in extremely cold environments. Because they are considerably lighter in weight, they are also easier to transport and operate.

Unlike the heavier snow mobile, the snow scooter is also less costly to use and maintain. Because they are lighter, they don't damage the terrain as much. They are also easy to assemble and don't require large storage space. The snow scooter is quieter to run than the snow mobile, which usually produces a lot of noise. Certain models also allow double sources of power, utilizing a gas-powered motor and an electric-powered motor alternately.

A new breed of snow scooter?

Thanks to his wife's suggestion, Andrew Hubert von Staufer, a ski instructor, was inspired enough to invent a faster, more maneuverable version of the snow scooter. Its design is probably closer to the 'scooter' part of the name since it was designed to resemble the mini scooters used by his friends' kids. The ski rider, however, is meant solely for teenagers and grown ups.

Basically, it is a scooter that flies over the snow and the more daring and adventurous teenagers are using the ski rider to perform tricks similar to those used with skateboards and BMX bikes. It has won two recognitions from the British Invention Show and is currently in mass production. As a streamlined version of the snow scooter, the ski rider is perfect for those who prefer speed and for preparation and participation in extreme sports.

Who uses a snow scooter?

Everyone who enjoys a sleigh ride without the sleigh, of course! The snow scooter is a reliable machine that offers lots of fun in the cold season and since it's there, why not make use of it? It's perfect for adults who want a fun ride and it's also an excellent transportation vehicle, offering a mode of travel for short distances on snowy terrain. Now, isn't that a way better method of traveling compared to trudging in knee-deep snow?

The snow scooter is also a favorite vehicle for tours and nature trips, where groups of people can independently transport themselves from one place to another. They are also used to transport skiers to and from ski lifts during skiing trips. Snow scooters also offer a convenient mode of transport for emergency rescues, able to bring rescuers and safety personnel to and from the scene.

If you think that the snow scooter's use is limited to the winter months, think again. Some manufacturers offer conversion kits that allow you to convert your snow scooter using just a few components, turning it into a regular street scooter you can use in spring, summer and fall. So now, you have no excuse to let your snow scooter gather dust in the garage during the warm months.

Pocket Bikes

Some good things really do come in small packages and the pocket bike proves that this is true. Small, compact and yes, fast, pocket bikes are rapidly becoming a favorite tool for fun and racing. If you're a fan of motor bikes and are looking for new ways to enjoy the sport of motorcycling, pocket bike racing might just be your next favorite thing.

What is a pocket bike?

A pocket bike is a scaled-down version of the basic motor bike, complete with working components. It has the same use and function as the larger version, albeit in a smaller body. In spite of its name, pocket bikes aren't toys and should only be used by individuals who have the basic skills necessary to operate a motorized two-wheel vehicle.

Pocket bikes may run using either gas or electric. Like the regular motor bike, pocket bikes also require a break-in period when first used.

Where did it originate?

When it comes to miniaturization, which country do you think does it best? Why, Japan, of course. The first pocket bike appeared in this part of Asia years ago when hobbyists and engineers began designing small versions of the full scale bikes. The trend caught on and eventually spread to Italy, where manufacturers began to refine the design and make of the pocket bike. It was a popular item in Europe and Japan before it crossed over to the United States.

Because of the challenge of using smaller scale materials and maintaining the same power and functions, pocket bikes were prohibitively expensive when they first came out, with some models costing as much as $3000 to $4000. Thanks to better engineering, design and mass production, pocket bikes have gone down in cost and are now available at affordable prices.

Limitations of pocket bikes

The way some pocket bikes are designed may deceive you into thinking that they can be used anywhere. They are quite sturdy but their design is meant to be used on flat, smooth surfaces with no debris or large bumps and cracks. Some manufacturers even recommend that pocket bikes be used only in dry conditions. Wet and slippery pavements can make maneuvering sharp turns quite dangerous.

While it's probably legal to own a pocket bike in most areas in the U.S., not all states allow their use on public roads and highways. Always check for restrictions with your local agency or DMV. Some states may also require that pocket bikes be registered before use.

Using the pocket bike

The laws of physics that govern the regular motor bike also rule the smaller pocket bike. That is why riders are advised to use them with the same care and caution. Refer to your manufacturer's recommendations for use, care and maintenance.

After the break-in period, a pocket bike may be used continuously although some manufacturers do have certain recommendations. Cool down periods, for example, may have to be observed between each full tank load. This doesn't take long. Cool down periods last from 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the weather conditions. Some riders, however, report using their pocket bikes for two to three hours continuously without problems.

The pocket bike functions as well as the basic motorbike but it has its limitations and special requirements. Pocket bikes may be smaller but riders are required to use the same safety gear they would use if they were riding the larger version. Some of these include a full face helmet, elbow pads, knee pads, gloves and if necessary, shin guards.

Because they're cute, most pocket bikes will eventually attract younger children. These kids may look like they fit perfectly on a pocket bike but the vehicles are by no means safe toys. If children use pocket bikes, they must only do so under adult supervision.

Who uses the pocket bike?

Anyone who likes the thrill of using the miniaturized version of the big, bad motor bike will find big fun with the pocket bike. They are perfect for people who want to use motorized two-wheeled vehicles but don't

have the ample space required by bigger bikes. Pocket bikes are a big hit among hobbyists, collectors, motor bike fans, riders and of course, racers. Many have even formed clubs to share information, trade and compete in racing events.

Pocket bikes can also be used by people who want to use motorcycles or pursue motorcycle racing later. Valentino Rossi, for example, used a pocket bike before graduating to larger motor bikes and becoming a champion rider.

Electric Skateboards

Since there are electric trains, electric buses and electric motor bikes, why not electric skateboards? Skateboard manufacturers, more commonly known and loved as foot-powered sport and recreation tools, have begun using technology to produce boards that require little more than good balance and a good helping of battery-powered momentum to use. No, they aren't like the hover boards used in Steven Spielberg's 'Back to the Future' movie but they're close.

What is an electric skateboard?

An electric skateboard looks much like the conventional skateboard but it is equipped with rechargeable batteries and an electric motor. This motor powers the skateboard, allowing the rider to use it without pushing. Generally, electric skateboards use 24 volt batteries that may be charged using regular electric outlets.

Depending on the model, the electric motor can use either a single motor or a twin motor. The single motor powers the skateboard from the rear while the twin or double motor runs the skateboard from both the front and the rear. The drive belt is what propels the skateboard forward.

Electric skateboards have speed controllers, allowing riders to regulate the motor's power by controlling the speed of the wheels. This control allows the rider to move forward and even backwards by simply reversing the motor's direction. Depending on the model, a wireless remote control or a hand cable may be used to control the board.

Where are electric skateboards best used?

As you can imagine, electric skateboards are best used on concrete, asphalt and other smooth surfaces. They aren't designed for off road use, since they're not that sturdy and don't have enough ground clearance. They are also designed for dry conditions and may suffer in performance when used in rain or water. However, they are pretty tough machines since their deck and motor are designed to withstand a lot of torture.

How long does one charge last?

This will depend on the capacity of the batteries you buy with the unit. Generally, high-end boards can run a distance of about 15 km per charge. The capacity of the battery is also a factor, along with the terrain and the conditions you'll use the board in. Batteries take about 4 hours to charge and with care, can last a maximum of about 250 to 300 charges.

Care and maintenance for electric skateboards

Electric skateboards are pretty simple devices and won't demand too much special attention considering that they are electrically-powered. There is no need to worry about carburetors, gas motors or even exhaust fumes as a result of the use of fuel.

Some parts, such as the belt and drive wheel, will need to be replaced after a certain period of use. Users can also customize the look of their boards by simply replacing the skate deck.

Generally, electric skateboards need only the most basic care. To keep them in excellent shape, wipe the boards clean and keep the bearings tidy and oiled. Regularly check the board's drive belt and adjust when necessary. Since it is battery powered, it may also be necessary to replace the battery after a period of time. Extra care and attention may also be required for the batteries in extreme weather conditions.

Advantages of electric skateboards

Of course, they may not give you the tough-cool persona that comes with conventional skateboards, but electric skateboards have a charm and function all their own. While some purists may view electric

skateboards as the geek's way to get into the sport, it is by no means less challenging or less cool.

Electric skateboards offer the same kind of fun and speed that conventional skateboards have. They are also easy to use and aren't very expensive to maintain. A short charge time is all it will take to begin using and having fun with these boards. Electric skateboards may be stored in the same manner as conventional skateboards, provided extra care is taken to ensure that the batteries and motor are kept in a dry, cool location.

Who uses electric skateboards?

People who have experience using conventional skateboards and those who want to learn how to use skateboards can use the electric type. Although most experienced and beginner skateboarders can comfortably use these boards, some manufacturers recommend that users should at least be 15 years old to ride them on their own. Younger children, however, should use these boards only with adult supervision.

Dirt Surfer

If you've never heard of the term dirtsurfer before, you're probably not the only one. Dirtsurfing isn't a household word but if its fans had their way, it would be a sport you'll find nearly everywhere there's sand or for that matter, dirt. Although people who engage in this sport are often referred to as dirtsurfers, the name 'Dirtsurfer' is actually a trademark. The sport itself is referred to as inline boarding. However, we will refer to it using its more popular name.

Dirtsurfing is a sport that originated in Australia and is a combination of skating, surfing and snowboarding using a board that is a cross between a bicycle and a skateboard.

What is a dirtsurfing board made of?

Imagine a skateboard with two wheels and you have a recipe for speed and some adrenaline-pumping action. The skateboard part is about 5 feet long and made of two sturdy bike wheels. It functions as a basic

skateboard with no handlebars and some oversized wheels. It can be used on sand dunes, hills, pavements, even mountain sides.

The dirtsurfing machine

A dirtsurfer board frame is usually made of tough, durable material such as composite, laminate or aluminum. The wheels are similar to those used on BMX bikes. Dirtsurfers can choose between 16 inch tires or 20 inch tires. Dirtsurfers can also choose whether to use foot straps or not.

How fast does a dirtsurfing board go?

Depending on the user, a dirtsurfing board can go as fast as 60 or 70 miles an hour, faster if used with a sail or even a kite. Many dirtsurfers use their boards in this manner in order to gain and maintain speed.

How is dirtsurfing performed?

Dirtsurfers, or better yet, inline boarders stand on the board in much the same way they would on a skateboard or snowboard. As they navigate the sands or pavement, they control the board using their legs and bodies. If you've surfed, skated or used a snowboard before, you should be familiar with the moves used to control a dirtsurfing board.

The dirtsurfer board can’t propel itself so it relies heavily on the momentum produced by gravity. This makes it ideal to use on downhill terrains. On flat surfaces, however, it can be pushed forward like a skateboard. It can also be used with sails or kite wings to gain speed.

The board

The first dirtsurfing boards were made without brakes and were labeled GP for general purpose. Its operating system used a retro-fitted calf lever which was later developed into the limited edition GP, complete with silver anodized frames.

The next dirtsurfing board design featured silver anodized frames once again, along with calf brakes. This was called the GP-X, which also featured a disc hub located on the wheel at the rear end. A modified

GP-X model, the Road Racer, was later developed, followed by a dirtsurfing board that could be fully utilized for beach use. The disk brake became a standard starting with this model.

Later on the Flexi deck model was introduced, combining fiberglass, epoxy and wood composites to develop a strong, reinforced frame that offered enough flexibility for a smoother ride on uneven surfaces. Ground clearance was also increased.

If you have these dirtsurfing models, make sure to hold on to them fast because they are no longer available. Newer models have emerged, including Dirtsurfers Flexi Pro and the Freestyle board, both of which were modeled after the Flexi deck. The brake is operated using the leg.

Advantages of dirtsurfing board

Probably the first advantage you'll notice in a dirtsurfing board is the speed. It's faster than a skateboard and is quite flexible to use, considering that it can be ridden on asphalt, cement and sand.

Because of the way the dirtsurfing board is built, the sport is also more stable, allowing speed and excellent control. The front wheel is designed to pivot below and in front of the wheel axle, allowing the dirtsurfer better control of the board.

Like the skateboard, surfboard and snowboard, the dirtsurfer board can be maneuvered with the user's weight, which can center, straighten and help propel the board forward. The large wheels on the board function as a gyroscope, allowing improving stability as speed increases.

Who does dirtsurfing?

Dirtsurfing is a relatively new sport and dirtsurfers aren’t as common as skateboarders and inline skaters. However, its popularity is increasing. People who are attracted to this sport are usually those who like speed and are willing to try a new sport. Sports fans and athletes familiar with surfing, skating and snowboarding may also like dirtsurfing because its closely related.

Which One to Buy

Try to research scooters and the first thing that comes to mind, looking at all those Google results, is that scooters generally refer to these bicycle-like toys for kids. But deeper research shows that scooters aren't just toys but they are also very useful mobility providers for senior citizens and for those who can't walk.

Anyone planning to buy a scooter might be confused as to the availability of quite a number of products about scooters. Thus, the purchase of a scooter shouldn't be done without doing some research first. You should adhere to a set of guidelines when buying scooters so here goes:

Who will use the scooter?

The age and personality of the would-be user of the scooter should be a priority consideration when buying a scooter. The fact that there are a lot of scooters to choose from (different models from different companies) should make you knowledgeable on the important factors to consider when buying one.

If the scooter will be given to a child then make sure it is appropriate for his age and height. Don't buy scooters big enough for a ten-year old kid for fear that he will outgrow the scooter. Buying a big scooter not fit for the height of the child will just make him frustrated because he won't be able to ride it properly if at all.

Buying a scooter that is one or several sizes too big for the child will also be dangerous because his feet won't be able to reach the ground in case he wants to stop the scooter without using the breaks. A colorful scooter, with neon side designs would be appropriate for a child not only because it will be more attractive for him but for safety reasons (since bright-colored scooters are easily seen).

On the other hand, a scooter that will be used by an elderly person or someone with a disability should conform to the needs of that person. If the purpose is for house mobility then buy one that is suited for home use. If the purpose is for outside mobility then make sure the scooter is safe and responds to that need. A scooter which is intended for the mobility of a senior citizen or a disabled person should be

remote controlled, with the controls easily accessible to the user. For the elderly and the disabled, a functional scooter is the best choice.

Scooters are no longer just for kids or the elderly. Teenagers and even adults are into scooters now because of the easy mobility they provide. Some people use scooters to go to their offices daily. Some use them for strolling around the neighborhood. Teenagers are hooked on the newest craze in town so getting them scooters with new designs would be great.

Safety measures

Safety issues should be one of the top concerns of parents when buying scooters. Parents who have decided to buy scooters for their children should make sure they also buy the appropriate safety accessories like helmets and crash pads. To encourage children to use them, make sure they approve the design and the color of the helmets and the crash pads. Finding helmets that have the latest designs (cartoon characters for the really small kids and perhaps their favorite movies or designs would be best for teenagers). These safety measures should also be considered when buying scooters for adults and the disabled because they aren't exempt from accidents.

Legal Issues

The legality of using scooters should also be considered. Check with the laws of the state or the locality where the scooter will be used. Most states prohibit the use of scooters on the highway. Also ask about registration requirements for the scooter.

Scooter power

Scooters come in all shapes and sizes. There are seven types of scooters (body types) to choose from:

- Suzuki Burgman
- Classic Vespa scooter
- Chopper Honda Joker
- Aprillia for off-road
- Aprillia for maxi touring
- Sports Gilera Runner
- Piaggio Zip for commuting

Also make sure about the scooter engine size. A 50cc scooter is good enough for city or town driving. For those who want more power from their scooters then a 125 cc engine will be ideal. Also get scooters with wider tires for stability.

Crash Pads

More than 40 thousand people, mostly kids, were brought to emergency rooms of various hospitals in the United States last year as a result of accidents involving scooters. This has put into close scrutiny the safety of people operating scooters.

Crash pads are one of the most important accessories that a person owning a scooter should have. In fact, crash pads are so important that they should be part and parcel of buying and using a scooter at any age.

Scooters are motorcycle-like vehicles containing small wheels as well as a low-powered engines. Scooters can be electric or gasoline operated but the most common ones are the gasoline scooters that are used to ferry one or two people within short distances. These vehicles are particularly popular among kids, teenagers and even adults and senior citizens, not to mention persons with disabilities.

No matter what age group a person belongs to, he should always make sure he is wearing crash pads when operating a scooter, to cushion any bumps or falls that may occur.

While crash pads are very important safety gears for scooter riders, helmets as well as elbow and knee pads are important and should be worn along with the crash pads. Crash pads are worn on the body to cushion the impact of scooter accidents.

Like motorcycle riders, scooter riders opt for leather which doesn't really protect them from impact. Thus, they have to wear additional protective gears like crash pads which are made from foams, Kevlar and other cushioning materials.

Crash pads are commonly used by those who are into skating (those who are still learning and those already experts in the sports). However, their usefulness caught the attention of bikers and scooter riders, paving the way for an increased demand for crash pads from then on.

Foams or Kevlar's are sewed as linings of lycra shorts or pants or even jackets to protect the wearer. Crash pad underwear is also available on the market. Crash pads are now more comfortable because they have been sewed in such a way that they are incorporated in the apparel. Wearing crush pads in any sports apparel will not only keep the wearer safe but will also build the reputation of a person considering that safe sports is the in thing today.

While crash pads are made of padding that is resistant to abrasion or impact as well as fabric that is more or less resistant to moisture, the right crash pads can provide comfort even while biking even with maximum movement.

US safety agencies are becoming more concerned with safety considering the increase in the rate of accidents involving scooters. The Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States is strictly recommending the use of the following safety gears for people using scooters:

- Crash pads
- Knee and elbow pads
- Helmet

The demand for crash pads is expected to increase with a corresponding increase in scooter sales. Despite accidents involving scoters, it has remained a favorite gift item among parents. It is recommended that parents make sure they get crash pads and other safety gears when buying scooters for their kids or anyone else. Adults are likewise advised to protect themselves from the impact of accidents by wearing crash pads.

While no age group has been cited as particularly susceptible to scooter accidents, very young children who are left alone to operate their scooters are naturally highly susceptible to scooter accidents because of a lack of experience in handling these vehicles and lack of proper body coordination skills. Young people are also more aggressive and are prone to violating scooter safety rules.

Here are tips to minimize scooter accidents:

- Aside from using crash pads, parents should also make sure they are buying the appropriate scooters considering the age and physical attribute of their children. Don't buy scooters that are too big for the user.

- Ensure proper maintenance of the scooter to avoid accidents caused by mechanical defects.

- Provide proper training before allowing him to use the scooter alone.

- Make sure kids use bright-colored riding gears so they are easily seen by vehicles and avoid bumping into them.

Maintenance of Gas Scooters

Scooters have become a popular transportation choice for most people who are brave enough to travel along with four-wheeled vehicles without the protection offered by a closed sedan or other closed vehicles. And why not when it is cheaper and a lot easier to operate and maintain.

Here are some of the most common reasons people buy scooters:

- For fun
- Traffic
- Good for strolling along the neighborhood
- Easy to maintain
- Cheaper than most vehicles

While there are a lot of positive aspects to buying a scooter, there are however rules that you need to follow to make sure that the scooter functions well and lives up to its purpose. It is ideal to read the scooter manual as soon as you get it to make sure that you know everything there is to know abut the operation and maintenance of the scooter. It is also important to read the manual for the proper maintenance of the scooter. Here are some tips to make sure the gas scooter purchased last month lasts for a long time and performs efficiently:

The following subjects are addressed in Maintenance:

First off, a scooter owner should make sure he knows the most important parts of the scooter such as the following:

- Tires
- Spark plug

- Brakes
- Carburetor
- Chains
- Throttle
- Oil and gasoline tank

How to make sure the scooter is properly oiled

Most scooters have 2-stroke engines so there is no need to change its oil. However, there is a need to come up with a mixture of good quality 2-stroke oil and gasoline (25:1) before filling up the gas tank, make sure the engine is properly lubricated. Oils for 2-stroke engines are available in most hardware stores. Scooter owners who aren't sure of this should consult an expert because the wrong mixture can damage the engine.

Tires

The scooter tires should be filled with 85 psi (of air). Make sure the tires are inflated properly for efficient performance. Scooter tires with low pressure will make it lose power.

Spark Plug

Make sure there is a sparkplug took kit when you buy the scooter because the spark plug is an important part of a 2-stroke scooter. A light brown or golden spark plug means the motor is fine but a white spark plug (electrode) means the motor is hot. When it becomes black then it is time to get rid of the oil, gas or carbon clogging it. Keeping the spark plug clean will be easy but first, you need to use a wrench to remove the spark plug.

Brakes

The scooters brakes are very important for safety and there is no reason to get into an accident because of faulty brakes because they are easy to maintain. Adjusting the breaks is easily done when there are two people doing this.

Air Filter

Regular cleaning of the air filter is important as it protects the engine from dirt and substances that are abrasive. A screw is needed to

remove the air filter cover. A dirty air filter should be cleaned using a power air spray.

Chain

Keep the chain of the scooter lubricated and tight to avoid jerking when the scooter is accelerated. Find the chain guard and lubricate the chain through a hole located on top. Checking the sprockets of the chain will ensure safety while driving.

Throttle

No matter what type of throttle the scooter has (twist or hand throttle), it is important to keep them clean to ensure smooth operation. The throttles can be easily adjusted by adjusting the cable tension.

Carburetor

It is best to have the carburetor checked by a mechanic who knows what he is doing because there is plenty of adjustments to be done here.

Maintaining the scooters parts doesn't require the owner to be an expert mechanic. In fact, it only requires a little patience and of course, a love for his scooter and his safety. The basic parts of a scooter can be checked regularly even at home. The complicated matters should however be left to the experts like the breaks and the carburetor to make sure no further damage is done.

Helmets and Safety Gear

The main purpose of helmets and safety gear would be to protect your head, arms, and knees, from all unforeseeable accidents and crashes. There are different types of helmets and safety gears available on the market today and they are distinct for every sport. Learn which one to use and for what sports and application.

1. Motorbike.

Motorbike helmets serve only one purpose and that is to protect the rider should he be involved in a vehicle crash. A motorcycle helmet should be strong but light. Right now, there are a lot of types of motorbike helmets and most of them are full face crash helmets. There are also open face crash helmets but they don't provide as much protection as the former.

2. Skateboard Helmet

Skateboard helmets should have good coverage in the rear. This is important because skateboarders usually encounter impacts to the back of the head. A skateboard helmet should also be smooth and round. This is the ideal shape of a helmets used for this sport because it ensures that it won't snag on something during a crash.

3. Bike Helmet

A bike helmet looks a lot like skateboard helmet. In fact, you can use the one for the other. One difference between skateboard helmets and a bike helmet is the vents. A skateboard helmet has fewer vents. So if you use it when biking on hot summer days, you might feel uncomfortable. A skateboard helmet is also thinner than a biker's helmet. This is necessary because the impact of a crash from a bike is stronger than an impact from a skateboard.

accidents may strike when you least expect them. Using protective could save your life!

Safety First

Scoot around with care

In the same way as car drivers, scooter riders have their fair share of safety precautions to take into consideration before riding on the streets. Scooters are known to be widely accepted by the younger generations, because when compared to controlling a car, it is much easier to comprehend and manipulate.

That is why it isn't surprising to hear that parents have shown apprehension regarding the potential fate of their kids when participating in any sport. It might have been said over and over

again, but it seems that it has also been unheeded time and again. Have fun but always play safely.

Prioritize safety

Knowing how to drive is essential but not all drivers realize that driving isn’t just the mere ability to steer the vehicle, but it should also be about being responsible enough to commit to safety by dispelling any form of trouble. it is important that you don't drive your scooter until you are fully aware of the safety measures that you need to bear in mind while riding.

Know your vehicle

The moment that you purchase your scooter, peruse the brochure and directions that came with the package. Other than informing you regarding the proper means of operating the vehicle, you might also find other effective information regarding the maintenance of the scooter such as the appropriate air pressure which would be used for the tires, preservation of the battery and more.

If you don't find that the details included are practical, then you should visit your scooter manufacturer's website to be informed of the parameters which the new owners must become skilled at. You might also want to inquire of the sellers or users of scooters, with regard to the possible safety measures which you have to adhere to when riding the scooter.

Never experiment and stick to the guidelines

For beginners and for the experts also, it is ideal that you ride the scooter alone. Taking a passenger could be dangerous, since scooters were manufactured to transport a single person at a time.

Tricks are more often than not, among the basic causes of accidents. It might sound thrilling to tug someone who is fastened on the end of the scooter while riding a skateboard, or to drag someone who's inside a wagon, but the truth is these tricks are extremely dangerous. Why?

One, the motor of the scooter isn’t accustomed to the heavy weight, thus it might snap. Two, the scooter is designed to hold the weight of a single person, any additional weight might cause the driver to lose

control which might bring about an accident. Scooter tricks are rarely safe and legitimate, so it’s best to avoid them.

Abide to the established guidelines

Rules are established for a reason. In scooter riding, there are the so called, ten commandments which riders have to adhere to so that they can continue enjoying their rides with their scooters.

In the event that you are unaware of these guidelines, it is best that you educate yourself so that you can avoid future complications due to recklessness and ignorance of the law. This information is usually available on the scooter manufacturer's website, government's driving department website and sometimes, in chat rooms and forums regarding scooters which are accessible on the web.

Use safety equipment all the time!

Other than knowing what you have to do, it could be further reinforced by protecting yourself with proper gear. In case you encounter accidents, when you are wearing safety gear, it will surely mitigate the effect of the incident.

Lastly, always take with you the pertinent documents and identification and insurance cards, so that you can get along the road fully equipped with all your needs.

Your Scooter and the Law

If you own a scooter and enjoy riding it, you have to keep in mind that there are laws that govern its use and you must comply with them. Failure to do so could lead to infractions. If it's your first time, you'll get a warning. But if you do it consistently, you might have to do some community service or worse, spend a day or two in jail.

Generally speaking, driving a scooter follows the same rules as driving a car or vehicle. But to be more specific, here are the laws regarding scooters and using them:

1. In California, you have to own a valid driver's license or at least an instructional permit before you can drive a scooter.

It is also a must that you are 16 years old and above. That's the legal driving age in most states. Those who are younger than 16 years old can't drive their scooter on public roads. The licensed riders must have a class E at least. But then again, some states don't require a driver's license. Instead, a tag is required.

2. Scooters don't require registrations, PIP insurance, or license plates.

As you can see, driving a scooter isn't as strict as driving a car. Scooters don't need any motorcycle endorsements either. This is because scooters aren't expected to go much farther than around the block.

3. The use of helmet is required.

Regardless of how old the user of the scooter is, the law requires that they use a helmet at all times. A bicycle helmet is sufficient. Never go without it as you can be stopped by an officer. Furthermore, using helmets will protect you from possible accidents.

4. Scooter riders can't have any passengers.

Scooters are for a single person's use only. You can't invite somebody to ride with you. This is because scooters are light vehicles. It may not be able to withstand the weight of two passengers at certain speeds.

5. Have at least one hand placed on the handle bars at all times.

If you are going to ride scooters on a public road, you have to comply with this law. This is not only for your own safety, but for others on the road as well. Unless you are in a scooter exhibition contest, don't remove your hands from the handle bars.

6. Don't drink and drive.

Don't think for a second that because you're not driving a car you are exempt from the drinking and driving law. The law that pertains to people who are driving under the influence of alcohol is applicable to those who are driving a scooter as well.

7. Don't go faster than 15 mph.

Scooters can only go as fast as 15 mph and that's the maximum. Even if your scooter has the ability to run faster than that, the law prohibits you from doing so.

8. You can't drive scooters on streets that have speed limits of more than 25 mph.

When driving scooters on public roads, always know what the speed limits are. If it is above 25 mph, you can't go there. That's because faster cars could run past you and you could lose your balance. You can only use roads with speed limits higher than 25 mph if it provides for a bicycle lane.

9. You can't ride scooters on sidewalks.

Bicycle lanes aren't the same as sidewalks. Don't attempt to drive the scooter on sidewalks in the absence of bicycle lanes. You are going to be apprehended if you try.

10. Scooter riders can't make a left turn at intersections.

If you need to do so, you have to stop and dismount the scooter. You should also do that from the right side of the road. Then do a complete turn and cross the intersection on foot.

11. The use of headlights and reflectors are required.

Should you want to use the scooter at night, it should be equipped with a visible headlight. The scooter should be visible within 300 feet or so. The reflector, on the other hand, should enhance its visibility for as much as 500 feet.

Courtesy of Scooters @ DirectSupplyDeals.com