



SCOOTERS AND SMALL-WHEELED DEVICES

Small wheels, but still big potential for danger!

Riding bicycles and other small-wheeled devices such as scooters, skateboards and rollerblades is fun, good exercise; and a great way for children to develop their balance and motor skills, and become more independent.

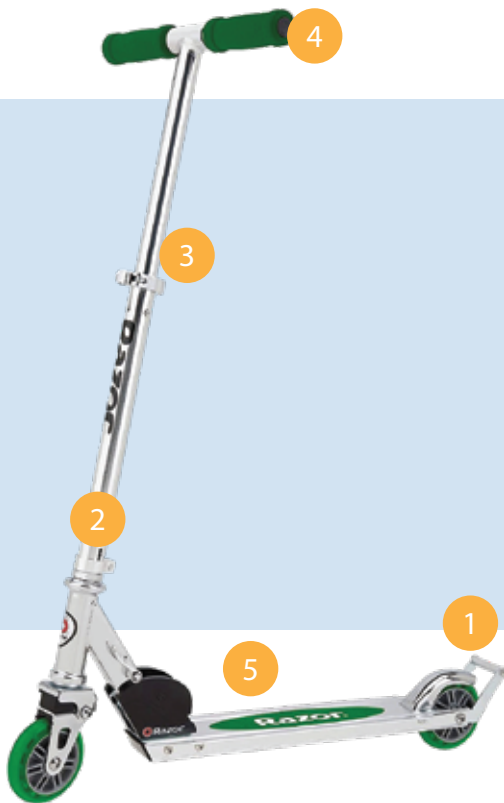
However, falls are the most common cause of injury when using small-wheeled devices. Most falls are the result of simple loss of control and injuries result from collisions with other people and objects.



Safety is simple

- ✔ Ensure that the wheeled device is the right size for your child and is appropriate for their development and motor skills.
- ✔ Check product for recommended age for use and children under 9 should ride with adult supervision.
- ✔ Avoid poorly made products.
- ✔ Use protective equipment such as helmets and wrist, elbow and knee guards that meet Australian Standards. (See our *Early Education Small-Wheeled Devices Fact Sheet* for more information)
- ✔ Learn to ride and practice in a safe place such as a dual footpath away from roads, driveways and slopes.
- ✔ Use small-wheeled devices in a safe manner. Pedestrians have the right of way so keep left and give way.
- ✔ Identify safe spaces specifically for riding small-wheeled devices. Use designated skate parks, never ride your skateboard on the road or at night.
- ✔ When riding along footpaths, be aware of your surroundings and be cautious when crossing driveways and near car parks and busy roads.





Scooter safety checklist

- 1 Check the brakes are in good working condition.
- 2 Check for sharp protrusions and edges.
- 3 Make sure the steering column locks easily and does not collapse. Make sure it is set at the correct height for the rider.
- 4 Ensure handlebar grips are secure and do not swivel.
- 5 Use a scooter with high ground clearance, non slip foot-boards and larger brake pads.

Motorised scooters, eRideables and other powered rideables

In today's world, there are many types of small-wheeled electric rideable devices – from single-wheel unicycles, two-wheeled scooters and four-wheeled skateboards – designed for different kinds of riders. These devices are generally classified by their size, weight, power, and top speed.

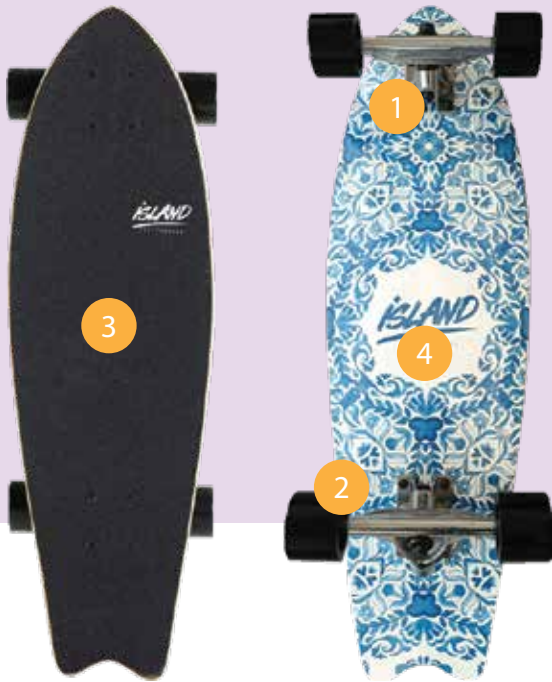
It can be tempting to purchase one for a child, but many electric rideables are not designed for children and may increase the risk of injury to both the rider and others nearby.

Across most states and territories, riders must be at least 16 years old to legally use motorised scooters, eRideables, and other powered rideables. However, the rules differ depending on where you live, so it's important to check your local regulations before buying.

If your child is using a device specifically designed for children, make sure they always:

- ✔ Wear a compliant helmet and protective gear,
- ✔ Ride only on safe surfaces, away from traffic and roads,
- ✔ Use equipment that is in good working order.





Skateboard safety checklist

- 1 Check the wheels and trucks are in good working condition and nuts are tightened
- 2 Ensure bearings are clean and functioning properly. Replace if necessary.
- 3 Ensure the grip tape is not worn out or slippery.
- 4 Check the board for cracks or broken sections



The most common skateboard injuries result from a fall with fractures of the arms, wrists, elbows and hands as well as traumatic brain injuries and concussion*.

Rollerblades and rollerskates safety checklist

- 1 Check the wheels for wear and tear. Replace worn wheels to maintain performance and control.
- 2 Ensure bearings are clean and functioning properly. Replace if necessary.
- 3 Inspect brakes for wear and ensure they are secure.
- 4 Look for cracks in the shell and replace or repair if needed.
- 5 Check for wear and tightness in the Laces and Buckles.



*The Epidemiology of Skateboarding Injuries: A 10-Year Review at a Major Australian Centre - PMC