

E-Bike & E-Scooter Definitions and Laws — Cupertino, CA (as of May 2026)											
California State Requirements (CVC)										Cupertino Local Rules	
Image	Vehicle Type	CVC Reference	Drive Mode	Max Speed	Wattage	License / Permit	Registration	Helmet	Potential Penalties	Sidewalk	Where Permitted
	E-Scooter	CVC §21235, 21212, 22411, and 407.5(a)	Throttle	15 mph	No statutory limit (typically 250–1000W+)	Driver's License or Instruction Permit Required	Not required	All riders under the age of 18	12500(a) VC Citation - driving w/out a license and tow w/30 day impound, helmet citation, ROW violation	Prohibited	Bike lanes and roads
	Class 1 E-Bike	CVC §312.5(a)(1)	Pedal assist only	20 mph	≤ 750W	Not required	Not required	All riders under the age of 18	Helmet Citation, ROW Citation if ridden improperly	Riders 12 & under only; adults may accompany	Bike lanes, roads, paths
	Class 2 E-Bike	CVC §312.5(a)(2)	Throttle or pedal assist	20 mph	≤ 750W	Not required	Not required	All riders under the age of 18	Helmet Citation, ROW Citation if ridden improperly	Riders 12 & under only; adults may accompany	Bike lanes, roads, paths
	Class 3 E-Bike	CVC §312.5(a)(3)	Pedal assist only	28 mph	≤ 750W	Not Required, must be at least 16 yrs old	Not required	All riders	Helmet Citation, ROW Citation if ridden improperly, authority to tow	Prohibited (all ages)	Class II/III bike lanes & roads only — no Class I trails or Class IV bike lanes
	Motorized Bicycle / Moped	CVC §406	Motor-assisted	Up to 30 mph	750W – 1,499W	M1 or M2 required	State registration required	All riders, DOT compliant	12500(a) VC Citation - driving w/out a license and tow w/30 day impound, helmet citation, ROW violation, authority to tow	Prohibited	Roads only
	Motor-Driven Cycle/e-Motorcycle	CVC §405 and 436	Motor	>30 mph and <60 mph	1,500W+	M1 required	State registration required	All riders, DOT compliant	12500(a) VC Citation - driving w/out a license and tow w/30 day impound, helmet citation, ROW violation, authority to tow	Prohibited	Roads only
	Dirt Bike / Off-Highway Vehicle	CVC §38010	Motor	Varies	1,500W+	Not required (OHV registration required)	Off-highway vehicle registration	All riders, DOT compliant	12500(a) VC Citation - driving w/out a license and tow w/30 day impound, helmet citation, ROW violation, authority to tow	Prohibited	Off-highway only — not on public roads

Cupertino requires dismount in Crosswalks, lights and reflectors at night and Rear red light/reflector required at all times for e-bikes (CVC 21201)

If an eBike has been modified to exceed the speed cap it is no longer considered its original Class and may be a motorcycle.

AB 875 now allows for 2-day impoundment of modified or uncertified e-bikes.

Cupertino Local Regulations Summary (as of May 2026)

Regulation	Details
Sidewalk Riding	Generally prohibited for adults. Children 12 and under may ride on sidewalks but must yield to pedestrians. Adults may ride only when accompanying a child aged 12 or under.
Crosswalks	Riding a bicycle in any pedestrian crosswalk is illegal. Cyclists must dismount and walk their bike through crosswalks.
E-Bikes — General	Must follow the same laws as traditional bicycles. Class 3 e-bikes are restricted to Class II and III bike lanes/roads; not permitted on trails or sidewalks.
E-Scooters	Prohibited on sidewalks, except to cross into or out of adjacent property. Riders must hold a valid driver's license or permit.
Helmets	Mandatory for all operators and passengers on motorized bicycles and scooters, regardless of age. (Stricter than state law for some classes.)
Lights & Reflectors	All bicycles and scooters must be equipped with appropriate lights and reflectors for low-light riding conditions.
Sources	City of Cupertino Public Works · Walk Bike Cupertino · California DMV · California Vehicle Code · Cupertino Municipal Code