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Staying Safe on Pedelecs: More Power Means More Risk

More and more cyclists are switching over to e-bikes, so much so that there were around 15.7 million electric bicycles in use on German roads in 2024 – eight times as many as ten years ago. However, DEKRA's experts warn that electric bikes are also associated with increased accident hazards. Senior citizens in particular are at higher risk of an accident.

Fuel Prices: Drive Smoothly To Save Money

Car drivers are currently having to fork out a lot of money to refuel their vehicles, as the price of fuel has skyrocketed due to the Iran war. They can mitigate this to a certain extent by driving economically to conserve energy. DEKRA's experts explain what to bear in mind here.

Accident at Work – What You Must Do

What should you do if there is an accident at work? DEKRA's occupational safety experts have observed that many employees do not have the right information. Employees learn about first aid, the first-aid logbook, and medical referees during the annual training on safety at work. Companies and employees risk legal, financial, or health disadvantages if they fail to comply with all requirements.

Further topics:

- Lithium-ion batteries: dispose of them properly to secure valuable raw materials
- On Tour app: handy aid when traveling across Europe by motorbike or vintage car
- De-registered vehicles: rules for driving to a PTI without a valid inspection sticker



Electric bikes: don't switch to turbo mode too quickly

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Staying safe on pedelecs

More Power Means More Risk

More and more cyclists are switching over to e-bikes, so much so that there were around 15.7 million electric bicycles in use on German roads in 2024 – eight times as many as ten years ago. However, DEKRA's experts warn that electric bikes are also associated with increased accident hazards. Senior citizens in particular are at higher risk of an accident.

A pedelec makes cycling easier than a traditional bike – it takes less effort to go up an incline, and they're great fun to ride. "The fact that they make things so easy means that when people switch over to them, they may initially be tempted to switch to turbo mode too quickly," says Jochen Hof, bicycle expert at DEKRA. "Newcomers need to know that a pedelec differs significantly from a traditional bike in terms of its weight, handling, and riding characteristics."

Pedelecs are much heavier than normal bikes, meaning they are not as easy to hold. Anyone who underestimates this may well fall over when stopping or at a standstill. In particular, the powerful acceleration and higher speed take some getting used to and will require the rider to think ahead more and take greater care. Furthermore, the turning radius increases under electric power. Coordinating all these different aspects takes practice.

Many people also have to get used to using the powerful hydraulic brakes on e-bikes. "The higher braking force needs to be applied carefully in order to ensure you can brake quickly in critical situations without losing your balance. Therefore, be more cautious initially until you feel confident in the saddle." A special rider safety training course is recommended, in particular for newcomers and anyone switching over from a traditional bike.

To ensure you stay safe on an e-bike, expert Jochen Hof recommends taking particular care when turning off, at intersections, and in places with restricted visibility. It is also a good idea to wear bright clothing and switch on your lights at an early stage as this will make it easier for other road users to see you. Furthermore, you should assume that other people will make mistakes and adapt your own riding style accordingly, as other road users often underestimate the faster acceleration and higher speed of pedelecs. For safety reasons, it goes without saying that you should also wear a helmet. (DEKRA Info)



What should you do if there's an accident at work? Many people don't know

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First aid – information – first-aid logbook – medical referee

Accident at Work – What You Must Do

What should you do if there is an accident at work? DEKRA's occupational safety experts have observed that many employees do not have the right information. Employees learn about first aid, the first-aid logbook, and medical referees during the annual training on safety at work. Companies and employees risk legal, financial, or health disadvantages if they fail to comply with all requirements.

However, the DEKRA Work Safety Report 2025 shows that the necessary training on health and safety at work is often not provided. According to a forsa survey on behalf of DEKRA, just 75 percent of the companies canvassed provide regular annual training. In the case of companies with less than 50 employees, it is only 45 percent.

If there is an accident at work, there are a number of crucial steps to take: "In addition to first aid and a call to the emergency services, if necessary, it is essential for an employee to inform their line manager and thus their employer." If an accident at work leaves an employee unable to work for more than three calendar days, the employer must then report this accident to the relevant employer's liability insurance association. According to the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), there are around 750,000 reportable accidents at work in Germany each year (2024).

In addition, the employer must investigate the cause of the accident and, if necessary, revise its hazard assessment and work processes. "Every accident at work provides valuable information about hazards," explains Jörg Lobe, Head of Safety and Health Protection at DEKRA. "It is essential that employers perform a systematic analysis in order to improve occupational safety at the company."

Another lesser-known fact is that after any accident at work or commuting accident, the injured person must consult a medical referee. This ensures that the insured person receives the best possible treatment. All accidents must be recorded in the first-aid logbook. This should be done either by the attending first aider or, in the case of minor injuries, by the injured employee themselves.

"The first-aid logbook is a valuable source of information for the employer, enabling them to identify and analyze hazards, as well as the causes and course of accidents," adds DEKRA expert Lobe. He recommends recording the information in a digital tool, and logging near misses/near accidents there as well as these also provide important information for improving the company's safety culture. (DEKRA Info)



*2026 oil crisis sends fuel prices
soaring*

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Skyrocketing fuel prices

Driving Smoothly Can Help to Mitigate Higher Fuel Prices

Car drivers are currently having to fork out a lot of money to refuel their vehicles, as the price of fuel has skyrocketed due to the Iran war. They can mitigate this to a certain extent by driving economically to conserve energy. DEKRA's experts explain what to bear in mind here.

When oil prices go through the roof, drivers need to take their foot off the gas. "Driving smoothly and thinking ahead make the biggest difference," says Reinhard Buchsdrücker, driving trainer at DEKRA. "Accelerate gently, avoid kickdowns and sudden braking maneuvers and instead allow the vehicle to roll, and use Eco mode whenever possible." Conversely, drivers who drive at the limit will soon feel it in their wallets.

Another important aspect is to shift up early on to ensure the engine runs at low revs in the most effective range. Assuming that the automatic start/stop function doesn't already do this, drivers can save another few percent on their fuel consumption by turning off the engine at traffic lights and during longer stops, such as when waiting at a railroad crossing.

Every kilo of weight that needs to be moved costs energy. For this reason, remove any unnecessary ballast from the vehicle, such as winter accessories that are not needed. Low tire pressures will also make the engine use more fuel as it increases the rolling resistance. In fact, fuel consumption will already increase by 5 percent if the tire pressure is just 0.5 bar below the manufacturer's recommended reading. Even small actions make a big difference when taken together: don't press the gas pedal when starting the engine, don't warm up the engine before driving off, and don't switch on electrical consumers for longer than necessary.

"However, all of this only works if the vehicle has been regularly serviced and optimally configured," says Buchsdrücker. Additionally, the general public could look to transport professionals for inspiration for things like optimum route planning to cut out unnecessary travel. Car-pools are another good way of saving money and protecting the environment. And, of course, many trips to places such as the bakers could also be made on foot or bike. "Cars that stay in the garage consume the least fuel." (DEKRA Info)



Lithium-ion batteries: dispose of them correctly to secure valuable raw materials

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Proper disposal of lithium-ion batteries

Securing Valuable Raw Materials

Lithium-ion batteries have become an indispensable part of mobile electrical devices and equipment. Whether it's a smartphone, camera, or mobile hedge trimmer, almost all of them are powered by these batteries. Their popularity is hardly surprising as they store a large amount of energy in a small space and can be recharged at any time. The chemicals in the batteries are generally depleted after 500 to 1,500 charging cycles, meaning the batteries need to be replaced. DEKRA's environmental experts explain what to bear in mind when disposing of used batteries.

Do not dispose of them in household waste. Batteries of any kind must not be disposed of in household waste. "Each and every one of us is legally obligated to dispose of old batteries properly at collection points at retailers or recycling centers," says Andreas Biermann, environmental expert at DEKRA. This is because the batteries contain certain raw materials such as nickel, cobalt, manganese, copper, and lithium. All of them are valuable, but they also pose a potential threat to the environment.

Tape up the battery terminals. On smaller AAA or AA batteries, you should tape up the terminals and put the batteries in a small plastic bag before returning them, as this will prevent a short circuit which could lead to a fire. For larger batteries, it is best to return them to a retailer as they are obligated to take them back. When disposing of old devices, always remove any replaceable batteries and dispose of them separately. If they are permanently installed, laypeople should not remove them.

Take care if the batteries are damaged. Take care when handling damaged batteries. "Never reuse them if they have external damage, bulges, if they have leaked, or if they have residue at the terminals," recommends Biermann. Do not open them, do not touch them with your bare hands (risk of chemical burns!), and do not ship them. Batteries that have been crushed or heated pose an increased risk of fire. The best course of action is to place them in sand outside of the home and dispose of them at a recycling center as soon as possible. (DEKRA Info)



If your inspection sticker is invalid, you can still drive to the PTI under strict conditions

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Has your vehicle's inspection sticker expired over winter?

Driving De-Registered Vehicles to the Inspection Center

DEKRA's experts highlight that anyone who temporarily de-registered their motorbike or convertible over the winter must ensure that the vehicle has a valid periodical technical inspection (PTI) when they re-register it. If the inspection sticker expired during this time, they will need to repeat the PTI and present the inspection report to the registration office. Drivers are normally not permitted to drive an unregistered vehicle on German roads. However, they are permitted to drive to a nearby inspection center and registration office under strict conditions. The de-registered vehicle needs the de-stamped license plates that were pre-assigned or reserved for the vehicle. The inspection center and registration office also need to be located in the same or a neighboring registration district. Moreover, drivers will need vehicle insurance that covers these types of trips, as opposed to only starting once the vehicle is re-registered. (DEKRA Info)



DEKRA On Tour app: discover more than 260 European destinations.

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Handy app for trips by motorbike or vintage car

Discover Your Dream Destination

Wondering where to head off to in the new season? Well, fans of motorbikes and vintage cars are spoiled for choice. The DEKRA On Tour app contains details of more than 260 selected routes to dream destinations all across Europe, including the Dolomites, Stelvio Pass, Tuscany, whiskey trails in Scotland and Istria, the French Riviera, and Sardinia, not to mention destinations in and around Germany itself such as the Swabian Jura mountains, Alsace, the Rhine and Moselle rivers, the Elbe and Weser rivers, Mecklenburg Lake District, and Usedom island. There's plenty to discover! Each trip comes with a detailed description, altitude information, and sights to check out along the route, as well as a navigation function and a tool for recording your own trips. The app is also a handy helper in the event of an accident and explains what to do at the scene of the accident, from making the site safe to calling the emergency services and providing step-by-step instructions for administering first aid. The DEKRA On Tour app is available from the App Store and Google Play. (DEKRA Info)