

Small-wheeled Devices

Fact Sheet

Small-wheeled devices include equipment such as skateboards, roller blades, roller skates and scooters. Injuries associated with these products account for the largest number of presentations of road traffic injuries to Perth Children's Hospital Emergency Department, with falls being the most common cause.

WA road rules

Children using small-wheeled devices should use footpaths and shared paths, however they must keep left and give-way to pedestrians. On shared paths, they have right of way over bicycles.

Small-wheeled devices can be used on roads however:

- Only during daylight hours;
- On local roads that do not have white lines or median islands;
- On roads with a speed limit of 50kmph or less;
- Must keep to the left.

Kidsafe WA recommends avoiding the use of small-wheeled devices on the road because of their inadequate braking mechanisms and increased risk of injury from vehicles. There are a number of venues specifically set aside for these activities. Contact your local council for more information.

Safety checklist

- Avoid poorly made products.
- Ensure all parts are functional i.e. brakes and locking mechanism
- Ensure the rider is highly visible to road users.
- Purchase and use protective equipment. Most falls are due to the loss of control and the rider is likely to fall onto their hands, wrists, elbows, knees and/or bump their head.
- Learn to ride and practice in a safe place.
- Use the equipment in a safe manner and remember pedestrians have right of way.



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Visibility

Items that increase visibility to road users are vital to child safety. Bright coloured clothing, reflective tape, reflectors, flashing lights and visibility flags are all useful in this regard. Users should not be using small-wheeled devices in poor light or near traffic.

Safety equipment

1. Helmets are the most important piece of safety equipment as they protect a child's head.

Make sure you follow these safety guidelines when choosing and using helmets:

- choosing and using helmets:
- Choose a helmet with a low back that has been manufactured to the AS/NZS 2063.
- Measure the child's head before purchasing a helmet. Ensure the helmet is used at all times and the chinstrap is securely fastened.
- Avoid leaving helmets in direct sunlight or in hot cars.
- Destroy and replace helmets that have had a hard fall. Damage to the helmet may not always be visible.

2. Wrist guards are designed to strengthen the wrist to reduce the risk of serious damage or broken bones.

3. Knee and elbow guards are designed to protect areas which tend to be common points of contact when children fall

For more information, visit:

www.sdera.wa.edu.au/



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