

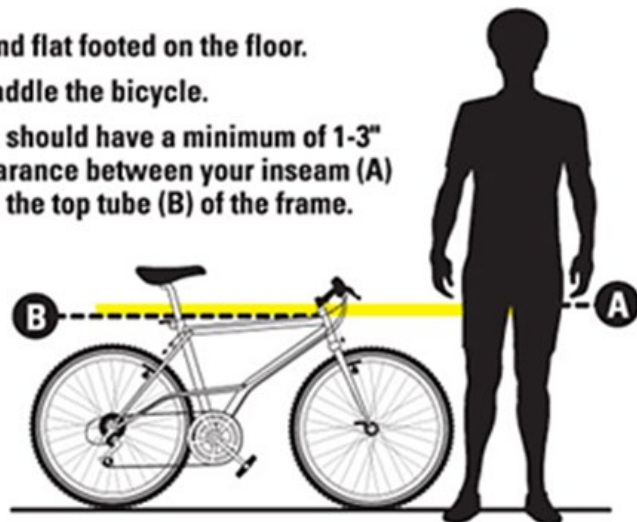
Choosing the Right Ride

Are you looking to buy a new bike? With so many shapes, sizes, brands and styles choosing the right one can be overwhelming! There are three basic questions you should ask yourself when buying a bike:

- 1) What type of riding will you be doing?
Are you a daily bike commuter or more of a weekend recreational cyclist? Are you planning on doing a long bike tour or the occasional short ride to the grocery store? While your first instinct might be to get a bike that looks good, different kinds of bikes are designed for different functions, so know what kind of riding will help narrow down your choices
- 2) What's your budget?
The price for bikes can range widely. Generally speaking, the more expensive the bike, the lighter the materials and higher quality components you will get.
- 3) What size bike do you need?
You wouldn't want to walk in shoes that don't fit, and the same goes for biking. Riding a bike that's too small can make it difficult to ride while a bike that's too large might be difficult to maneuver.
 - Bikes are generally measured by the length of the seat tube (the tube that holds the seatpost in place). Different kinds of bikes are measured in different ways with different units:
 - Road bike measurements typically given in metric (cm)
 - Mountain bike measurements typically given in inches
 - Hybrids can be measured in either CM or inches depending on the manufacturer

The Diagram below provides a quick tutorial on how to size a bike, but you can always visit your local bike shop and get properly measured and sized!

1. Stand flat footed on the floor.
2. Straddle the bicycle.
3. You should have a minimum of 1-3" clearance between your inseam (A) and the top tube (B) of the frame.



General Bike Types

Road bike

Road bikes are generally designed for smoother paved surfaces. Key features include skinnier tires with a smoother tread and lighter weight. There are many different types of road bikes designed for different uses including touring, racing, cyclocross and other activities.



Mountain bikes



Mountain Bikes are generally used for off-road riding and rougher terrain. Key features include wider tires with a thicker tread to provide increased traction, and suspension systems designed to absorb shock. These bikes tend to be heavier because of their robust construction and suspension components.

Hybrid

Hybrid bikes are excellent entry level bikes as they combine elements of road and mountain bikes for a more balanced rider experience. These are designed to enable riders to tackle a range of conditions and tend to have narrower tires with an intermediate tread.



Bike share



Bike share programs are a shared transportation service which provides a fleet of bicycles for public usage. If your community has a bike share system, this is a great way to try biking to work or other locations before deciding to invest in your own bicycle. You also don't have to worry about bike maintenance.

E-bikes

New York State recently legalized a three-class system of electric bicycles (E-bikes), which expands the population of New Yorkers who might consider bicycling for commuting and other purposes. Each class contains a battery-operated motor that aids normal pedaling motion. Some ebikes contain a pedal assist motor which activates when pedals are in motion, while others have an independent throttle which controls the motor. These bikes tend to be heavier because of the batteries and motors and are subject to the same NYS Vehicular and Traffic laws as a fully human powered bicycle. Be sure to check local ordinances about where you can use these bicycles, particularly off road or on a multi-use trail that is used for commuting purposes.



Folding bike

Folding bikes are generally designed for riding on flat paved ground and provide riders with a more upright seating position. The key characteristic of folding bikes is their collapsible frames which enable them to be folded and stored in cramped locations. Their compact size also makes them great for travel!

