



NEXT GEN E-RIDES

**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE**

# TO OWNING A CARGO EBIKE



[www.nextgenerides.com.au](http://www.nextgenerides.com.au)

## 01 WHAT IS A CARGO EBIKE?

A cargo ebike in essence, is a sturdier electric bike that is designed to carry heavy loads, which often includes 2 or more people. Cargo bikes can differ greatly in size and shape and can also come in 2- or 3-wheel varieties. Most of the time they have a longer wheelbase than your standard ebike and a key feature is the design accommodating extra cargo space whether that be to the front or rear of the bike.

### A powerful motor is key

The motor is an essential element as it needs to be able to generate sufficient speed and torque to carry up to 200kg of luggage (human or otherwise). Most cargo ebike's come with a wide range of pedal assistance settings and gears to enable the rider to climb hills whilst carrying load safely on their ride. Because most cargo ebike's are larger they tend to weigh more (25-35+ kg) making the need for a powerful motor paramount to the riding experience.

### Accessories galore

Another key feature of the cargo ebike is the wide array of accessories that are available. Many features are standard, but some are offered at an additional cost. The range of accessories will depend on the model and manufacture, but many can be sourced from other suppliers who are keen to tap into this ever-growing market. Key accessories include:

- Passenger footrests
- Cargo baskets (front and rear)
- Safety bars (monkey bars)
- Dual battery options
- Waterproof covers/bike covers
- Child bike seats/seat cushions
- Panniers and luggage bags
- Sidewinder and bike stand accessories (for safe loading)



## 02 MOST COMMON CARGO EBIKE MODELS

There are many different styles and models of cargo ebikes but for simplicity they can all be broken up into 3 main categories. The most common cargo ebike models are:

### Longtail Cargo Model



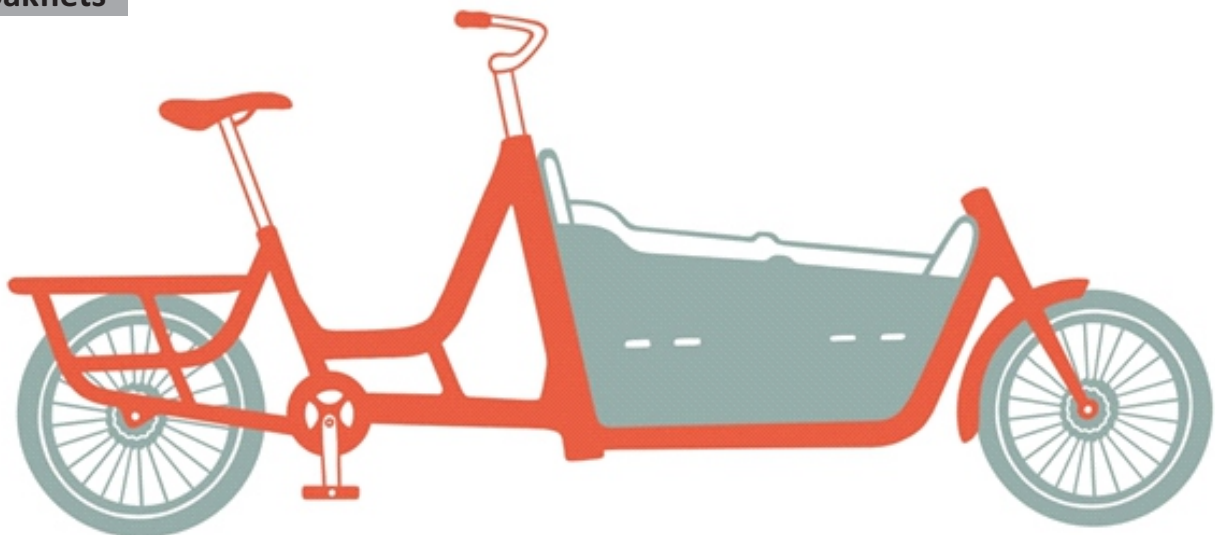
*Longtail models let you carry children and other cargo on an extended rear rack that sits over the back wheel. They're popular with families who have more than one child. Kids can ride in child seats that are mounted on that rack or sit on a bench on the rear rack.*

### Midtail Cargo Model



*Midtail models are great if you are only carrying one child or a smaller amount of luggage on the rear rack. They also have the added bonus of being good for use after the children grow up as they are more aligned with a standard ebike model that is not exclusively used for carrying cargo as they are shorter and weigh less.*

### Bakfiets



*The Bakfiets (also known as Dutch ebike style) are considered the safest way to transport a child as the rider always has full vision of the child. They also provide a great space for storage of luggage which can be anything that will fit into the ample space at the front of the bike.*

## 03 WHY DO PEOPLE BUY CARGO EBIKES?



A cargo ebike is a great option for a wide range of riders. When people think of cargo ebike riders they typically picture a mum or dad transporting their young kids off to school but there are many other riders that can benefit from a cargo ebike model. These types of bikes can offer the same benefits to far more than the young family.

Cargo ebike's provide the rider with all the benefits of a standard ebike with a huge storage capacity. Some cargo ebike's boast cargo load capacities of more than 200kg. This means many riders and families are using them to reduce their car usage especially for short haul travel.

### What should you use a Cargo ebike for?

If you look at most ebike advertisements they all promote the same thing, as an alternative to a car and other modes of transport. Some go as far as saying a cargo ebike can become a replacement for a second car. This can be true for some cargo ebike models, but it does depend on the individual and how invested you are on making the change.



The major uses for a cargo ebike include:

- School drop offs
- Transporting kids
- Shopping run
- Trips with the kids to the pool, park etc.
- Transporting pets
- Delivery riders

As people become more environmentally conscious and family connectivity and wellbeing are at the forefront of everyone's minds there is no doubt that the cargo ebike can fill the void.

#### Can a cargo ebike really replace a car?

Yes! Electric cargo bikes are extremely versatile. They're great in situations when you'd usually rely on a car or public transport. Cargo ebike's can:

- Save you time
- Save you money
- Improve your health
- Improve your wellbeing
- Bring joy and connectivity to your family

“

*75% of Australian's  
still drive to work by car  
and more than a third  
of all car trips are  
under 5km!*

”



# 04

## SOME BASICS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE BUYING

Here are few key common questions people ask when they are thinking of buying a cargo ebike. This list is not comprehensive but key questions that come up time and time again. As always speaking to a specialist retailer is always your best bet once you have narrowed down your search to a few key models you are looking to buy.

### Are electric cargo bikes hard to ride?

The good news is that if you can already ride a bike, you'll be able to ride a cargo ebike - they just require a little getting used to, that's all. In our experience, there are five things to consider when riding an electric cargo bike:

- 1. Riding with extra weight** - The extra weight at the front and or the back of the bike can affect the way the bike turns, navigates obstacles, slows, and accelerates.
- 2. Size and turning** - Longer bikes have larger turning circles - fact! It also means that corners, road junctions and the like must be taken wider than a standard bike. The long length of electric cargo bikes can also pose a problem when crossing roads or waiting at junctions. Be careful that your front wheel isn't sticking out into the road!
- 3. Get a feeling for electric assistance** - If you've never ridden an electric bike before, the thrill of the electric motor kicking in is really something to behold. With power comes great responsibility though. Familiarise yourself with the various support modes and build your way up to the maximum setting.
- 4. Understand braking distance** - With up to 200kg on board, you won't be surprised to hear that cargo ebike's can take longer (further) to stop. Most have extremely powerful brakes to compensate but distances can easily change according to the weight on board or the road conditions. Also, if you have average brakes (mechanical not hydraulic disc brakes) it is worth upgrading if you can.
- 5. Be ready for unexpected movements** – There is no child who rides on a bike that will sit still or not make sudden movements that you will feel when riding. Be prepared to readjust at any moment and stress the importance of trying to stay still to your child.

### How much weight can electric cargo bikes carry?

As a guide, most cargo ebike's sit can carry between 175kg and 250kg of load. Most manufacturers stipulate maximum weights for their bikes, some will even split the figures into total, rider and cargo amounts. When calculating, do account for the weight of accessories like locks, additional front racks or an extra battery, and the actual weight of the actual bike.



### How should I store an electric cargo bike?

Unfortunately, it is not as easy as some smaller ebike models. Obviously sheds, garages or secure communal spaces are ideal places to store your new runabout, especially if there's step-free access. If possible do not store outside not just for the longevity of your ebike but to keep out of any line of sight for potential thieves.

Some cargo ebikes try to negate any storage quandaries through clever design (upright storage design). However, most cargo ebikes need significant space to be stored. Wherever you store the bike just ensure you do so securely, using multiple bike locks! Installing multiple GPS trackers could also offer further peace of mind.

### How do I maintain an electric cargo bike?

A functioning, fun-to-ride electric cargo bike is a well-maintained one. In this regard, cargo ebikes are no different to other bikes and electric bikes. A yearly service should cover most things and, in the process, prevent unfortunate breakdowns from occurring. One part of an electric cargo bike that does take a battering is the brake pads. A crucial safety component, brake pads can be checked with a quick glance and with a bit of know-how changed very easily. If this is not covered in your user manual a quick search on YouTube will uncover the steps and it really isn't a hard thing to learn.

**Maximum age for child bike seat** – This is not as clear cut as the minimum age as kids develop at different rates. As a rule, child bike seats are recommended for kids aged 1-4 but kids up to 5 can continue to use a child bike seat depending on their development and weight. It is important to understand the max weight capacity of the bike seat and if sitting on a rear rack the weight limit of the rack. Most bike seats and rear racks can accommodate up to 22-25kg, but it is always advised to check with the manufacturer to ensure your child is within the prescribed guidelines.

### Ensuring your child bike seat is safe

Before purchasing your child bike seat make sure it meets the required safety regulations. Look for the EN14344 approval, this indicates that a product has been thoroughly tested to ensure your child's safety. Ideally you are looking for testing in a country like Germany by GS or TUV who are the recognised leading authorities in the world.

It is always worth purchasing some basic bike tools to help keep all nuts and bolts tight and secure. A common issue with cargo ebike's can be the bike stand coming loose due to the heavy load being placed on it when it is in operation. This should be checked regularly to avoid any damage or potential hazards. Follow your manufacturer's recommendations on maintaining your cargo bike.

### What are the rules and guidelines for bike seats for children?

**Minimum age** – Some manufacturers state as young as 9 months, but the rule of thumb is that you child can ride in a child seat when they can safely hold their head up steadily and have developed a strong enough neck and back to cope with riding. Personally, I think children should be at least 1 year old before they should ride in a child seat regardless of development milestones.

**Helmets are compulsory in Australia** – This is a no-brainer regardless of the law, but all children must wear a helmet when riding a bike, there are no exceptions in any state or territory in Australia. All helmets must be a Standards Approved helmet including tag along and must not force the child into an uncomfortable position. If the helmet does force the child's head forward, then it is likely they are too young.

If you cannot find the approval it is not worth the saving. The EN14344 label is always clearly displayed on the bike seat (usually at the rear of the seat) and should not be hard to find. If unsure err on the side of caution and stick with leading brands as your child's safety is far more important than saving a few dollars.



## 05 THE BUYING GUIDE

### Buying your cargo ebike

There are a lot of choices out there when it comes to Cargo ebike's, and it can be difficult to navigate which model is best suited to you. Like buying any expensive product it is important not to skip the research phase and understanding your needs will help guide you as to what product will work best for you.

### The Research phase – Phase 1

The internet is a great source of information so start building up your knowledge by researching the product. Key research topics you should cover include:

- Cargo models in the market
- Specific brands you like
- Mid-drive and hub motors (differences and how it affects the ride)
- Cargo ebike reviews
- Day in the life videos from cargo ebike users
- Child seat models
- Child seat regulations
- Ebike laws in your state or territory
- How to maintenance videos
- In store/over the phone Q&A's with suppliers
- Cargo ebike accessories
- Lithium batteries (dangers, maintenance, products, understanding battery Watt hours etc.)
- Talk to other cargo ebike users you meet



## Narrowing down your options – Phase 2

Once you feel like you have a basic or intermediate level of understanding about electric bikes and more specifically cargo ebike's now you need to ask yourself some key questions. It is vitally important to know what you want before you start the buying process as you can easily get swept up in the emotion of a test ride or visiting a swanky looking ebike store. Knowing what you can and can't afford and what you need from your ebike is key to making a good buying decision.

### The key questions you must answer before buying

- What is my budget?
- Which cargo ebike model do I like best?
- Do I want a hub or mid-drive motor (this question will have a huge impact on budget)?
- Where do I want a child seat fitted?
- Do I want cargo baskets, what sort of storage capacity do I need?
- What weight limit will work for me and or my family?
- Will the bike be ridden by others, what rider heights will suit all users?
- What are my storage options, what model size can I accommodate?
- Do I want a step thru frame, which frame model and tyre size will suit me?
- What will be the primary use of the ebike?
- Do I know where to get the bike serviced?
- What accessories are offered by the ebike supplier and are any that I like from third party suppliers going to work on my chosen cargo ebike?
- What range do I need, is it worth getting a second battery as well (either fitted or as a spare)?

The idea is to come to a firm budget and a deep understanding of what you need from your cargo ebike and that you have a good idea of no more than 2 or 3 models that you want to test ride. If the buyer does not offer test riding it is probably not worth the risk. This is a key phase of the buying process and requires all riding participants to try before buying (yes, the kids and/or dogs too!).



### The Test Ride – Phase 3

This is the perfect opportunity to get to know what you are buying. You really don't know what you are getting until you hop aboard and take it for a spin. Any decent retailer will offer test riding and if they don't find one that does. It is one of the most important parts of buying an ebike is feeling comfortable and confident on your cargo ebike. Sometimes the bike can look amazing in a high glossy photo or on a YouTube video but for whatever reason it just isn't right for you. Take the risk out of the transaction and take it for a test ride first.

### How to get the most out of a test ride

In my ebook *Your Guide on how to test ride like a pro* we cover in depth the keys to a great test ride. There are some obvious requirements from both parties but some things many people forget time and time again need to be addressed.

#### 1. Come prepared

Check with the supplier if you are required to bring ID or if there is any deposit required. The last thing you want to do is turn up only to find you are not legally allowed to ride their test bike because you forgot your passport or don't have any ID on you.

#### 2. Dress Appropriately

I have seen people show up in lovely flowing dresses or with the trusty thongs on, but you really need to wear appropriate riding gear. To be safe make sure you bring the following:

- Closed shoes i.e., no heels, thongs etc.
- Comfortable clothes that you would ride in (not dresses, baggy pants, suit etc.)
- A bike helmet (this is a legal requirement so bring your own)
- Water bottle (it can take longer than you think and its thirsty work!)
- Mobile phone (for navigation and ease of meet up if not at store)
- Jacket if it looks like it may rain

#### 3. Bring all relevant parties to the purchase

If in a couple and both are going to ride the bike it is logical to both test ride the ebike. This is because riders can vary in height which can make some models too big or too small to ride. Yes, handlebars can be adjusted but you always want to feel like you can control the bike so getting an appropriate frame/wheel size is an important consideration. If you can, try and arrange a test ride that allows you to take your kids as passengers. This may not be possible, but they can also be an important party to the buying decision.

#### 4. Conduct thorough pre-ride checks

Make sure you are fully versed in all aspects of the bike. You need to be confident before you set out so don't be shy and ask plenty of questions and ensure this part of the process is not rushed as it can be the difference between having an accident or not. Some key pre-ride checks you should conduct include:

- Conduct rider set up (handlebar height, seat height, saddle position)
- Understand how to correctly operate the brakes, pedal assist settings, and change gears (bike controls overview)
- Check tyre pressure (do not ride if they are too flat, get them to inflate if necessary)
- How to you operate the lights
- Where is the bell to warn pedestrians
- How to correctly load child and restrain in child seat (if this is part of ride or not)
- Key things to be aware of when riding a cargo ebike (especially if first time riding)
- Safest route to take for test ride

If at any stage, you do not feel safe or that the seller is skipping important information don't be afraid to speak up. Don't take off on your test ride until you feel confident and ready. It is always a little nerve racking doing something for the first time but once the bike starts moving you will find you very quickly get the hang of how to operate it. The key is to respect the differences and ride safely as a cargo ebike is a lot different to ride than a normal bike, but it is not so different that you can't adapt.

#### 5. Key areas you are looking to test when on a test ride

Don't forget that you are looking to understand how the bike performs and its suitability to your needs. When conducting your test ride be on the lookout for the following things:

- How it rides uphill
- Is the take-off adequate to cope with the load you will be carrying (what is the motor torque in Nm?)
- Is there enough room for your cargo human or otherwise?
- How heavy does it feel when you ride without pedal assistance (only test this on flat if you are confident as it will be surprisingly difficult)?
- How do the brakes perform, do they squeal, are they responsive, is the stopping distance good enough?
- How does the motor sound?
- Does the bike make lots of noises when you are riding, does it feel safe?
- How comfortable is it to ride, are there any obstructions, is the seat comfortable?
- Do you enjoy riding the bike, can you picture riding it every day?
- Do you think the bike offers value for money; do you trust the seller?

## 6. The post ride debrief

Here you don't want to give the game away. Even if the bike was one of the best experiences of your riding life the seller doesn't need to know. This is when you need to ensure that you address any concerns or burning questions you may have forgotten or have only thought of after riding. Key questions you want to address include:

- What range would I expect from the bike?
- How long does the battery take to charge?
- How much does a spare battery cost, how easy are they to replace?
- What are the warranty periods (frame, electrical, battery etc.)?
- What is the returns policy?
- Do you include maintenance or recommend any ebike repair stores, what is the cost for a standard service?
- What child bike seats do you recommend?
- What accessories do you sell with this model, what accessories do you recommend from third parties?
- Do you assemble the bike, is there an extra charge for assembly?
- Are there any accessories or discounts you can offer with this bike?
- What are the payment options?

### Decision time – Phase 4

Once you have completed the test ride and have your offers on the table (or in your email inbox), it is time to decide. The key is to stick to your budget no matter how tempting it is and only purchase the cargo ebike that will suit your lifestyle now and into the future. You don't have to buy all the accessories from the one supplier and don't be afraid to source accessories second hand. There are many good deals to be found on Facebook Marketplace or other online platforms so don't rush into kitting it out if it will push you over your budget limit.

If you have done your homework and can justify the spend and the long-term benefits, it really will be a sound decision.



## 06 PRO CARGO EBIKE TIPS AND TRICKS

Here are some great tips that should hopefully save you from making the same mistakes I and other riders have made. This is by no means a complete list of learnings but hopefully some will be of use to you at some point in the future.

### How to load kids safely into a child seat (rear seat)

- Always fit your helmet and bag (if wearing) first before loading the child onto their seat.
- Fit your child's helmet securely before loading onto bike (the child should be the last cargo you load).
- This is so that you have both hands free and don't have to leave your child on the bike stand for any extended period. Even if you have a sturdy and secure bike stand, it won't stop your child rocking and destabilising the bike.
- Not all double kickstands or bike stands are stable enough to load your child, always best to ask the supplier before testing on your child
- Straddle the bike facing to the rear and carefully lift your child onto the bike seat (use you legs to further stabilise the bike if needed (if your bike stand is not able to hold weight of child then you may need a second person or to load leaning bike against wall
- Secure the safety harness around your child, tighten if necessary
- Secure feet with straps ensuring an adequate height which is comfortable for your child
  
- If you have a strap around the seat post or bottom of the rear seat, check it is secure
- Finally check that the seat clamp is tight as it can loosen over time
- Before taking off, double check everything is as it should be and pre-warn your child before you take off
- Try to ensure a smooth dismount of the bike stand, cushion rocking motion if possible
- Take off should be smooth and not alarming for child so make sure your bike is nicely lined up and the coast is clear before taking off





## The right riding gear

You don't need to go full lycra, Tour de France cycling attire, but you do need to wear sensible clothes that aren't going to compromise your safety and that of your passengers. So, what is the right gear? To keep things simple, I will list the must have and nice to have riding gear.

### Must have riding attire

- Good quality Australian standards helmet for all riders
- Sunglasses (preferably ones that don't obscure reading of display)
- Top and jacket if there is rain about
- Comfortable shorts, trousers, track pants or leggings (zip pockets if possible)
- Sneakers or closed shoes, decent grip to stop any slipping on pedals
- Backpack, cargo basket or panniers to store bags, mobile phones etc.

### Nice to have riding attire

- Cycling gloves
- Helmet with LED lighting to rear
- Bright hi-vis jacket or top for improved visibility



### How to improve the riding experience

Like anything you are new to you get better with time and experience. Riding a cargo ebike is no different. When you first start you are a little wobbly, you don't take the corners as flash as you'd like and at times your take off may leave a bit to be desired. However, you will get better and soon you will glide down the street like a pro.

Here are a few helpful hints to take you from novice to cargo king or queen:

#### Use your gears

If you are riding a mid-drive this is non-negotiable. You must treat a mid-drive ebike like a motorbike or a car. In other words, don't start off in a high gear and make the motor work too hard. Select lower gear settings (but not first gear) and work your way up the gears one at a time as you pick up speed. If you ride a hub motor again it is still advisable to change down gears for hills so that you can a) get fitter, b) provide the bike with extra thrust and, c) not have to use the higher pedal assist setting all the time and extend your battery range at the same time.



Hello old friend! I promise to change you from time to time.

## **Master your take-off**

Depending on your ride you may have several options for take-off. Some may have throttle-assist (you naughty people), some may have pedal-assist (bravo!), and others may use pure pedal power alone (the real pros). Whatever your preference, this is something you will do often and can be the undoing of you if you don't perfect it.

The key tips are:

1. Ensure that any luggage (especially children) is secured before take-off, double and triple check all child restraints.
2. Make sure you alert your passengers and visually check they are ready before setting off
3. Ensure your cargo ebike is pointed in the direction you need to go as they turn like the Titanic, so you don't want to have to make a sudden readjustment if you are heading for trouble (think fence or parked car)
4. Make sure you have the correct gear and pedal-assist setting selected prior to take-off (note pedal assist and throttle assist will not work if you have selected "0" pedal assist setting)
5. Remember to take the bike off its stand and when doing this try and cushion the bike so that little ones in the back don't get hurt (bit lips etc.)
6. For take-off the key is to be smooth and steady, not fast, and out of control
7. If using a throttle assist just give it enough to get moving and then let the pedal assist and pedalling, take over (some will cut out at 6km/h which is a good guide speed to release)
8. If using pedal assist or pedal power use a slight push off motion with your resting leg and make sure the pedal is in a good position to allow you to pedal easily, correct gear selection will add as high gear selection will add a lot of resistance which you want to avoid (gears 2-4 should be a good selection for take-off) but it will vary between different models



## **Bike maintenance**

One of the single biggest threats to rider enjoyment is a poorly maintained bike. Cargo ebikes like normal bikes do require maintenance and cleaning to keep them in tip top shape. Many people neglect their rides and then become frustrated when things start going wrong. You know who you are. It is important to ensure that you regularly check for any loose bolts, screws, maintain a good tyre pressure (very easy to check but rarely done). If it is not your thing, then find a good local ebike mechanic or get on YouTube and educate yourself on the basics.

As far as servicing goes it is best to service your bike a minimum of once a year or more regularly if you are clocking up the miles at a high rate. Because cargo bikes tend to be heavier and carry heavier loads you will no doubt need to change out your brake pads regularly. Here are the key areas to always keep an eye on to ensure your safety:

1. Brake pads – lined up and not making too much noise
2. Brakes – instantly grab when engaged
3. Tyre pressure (the range is always noted on the tyre wall near the rims)
4. Bike stand (ensure this is regularly checked and bolt/s tightened)
5. Battery (make sure you never leave battery empty for any extended period)
6. Derailleur (make sure it is not bent and that you can access all gears)
7. Chain (these are loose and big so need lubrication)
8. Child seat (regularly check it is securely fitted)



## Pre-ride Checklist

To ensure trouble free riding here is a short checklist that should become part of your ebike routine. By running through this prior to your ride you can avoid small problems becoming expensive problems.

Task	Tools	Instructions
Check tyre pressure	Air inflator with pressure gauge	Check the PSI of the tyres is within manufactures range, this will be displayed on the sidewall of the tyre
Inspect brakes	No tools required	Whilst rolling your ebike besides you, pull on one of the brake levers. The ebike should come to a stop immediately. Repeat with the other lever.
Test headset	No tools required	Pull the front brake and rock the ebike back and forward. There should be no play in the handlebar mount. Tighten if needed and re-test.
Clean and lube chain	Chain lube and rag	Clean off any excess dirt with a rag, this can be done by spinning the pedals whilst the wheel is off the ground and holding the rag around the chain (so length of chain is cleaned). Then apply lube to length of chain.
Check wheel tightness	No tools required	Check that there is no wheel wobble and that the nuts are tightened.
Check battery levels	No tools required	When you turn on your ebike make sure there is enough charge for your journey. If not, plug in the charger until the ebike is fully charged.

## The keys to riding a Cargo ebike

As you are by now aware a cargo ebike is a slightly different beast to ride. It is heavier, longer, and generally more cumbersome than other bike models on the market. This provides some more unique challenges to the rider. The key is to not push the bike beyond it's limits and to adjust your riding style accordingly. The following keys are probably obvious but as I did call this article the Ultimate handbook it would be remiss of me to neglect even the most obvious elements.

### **Braking**

Extra weight means a much slower and longer braking time. Your stopping distance will increase with extra load and the extra weight of the bike so make sure you leave yourself plenty of room and time when coming to a complete stop. Pro riders will only use hydraulic brakes so if your ride only has mechanical disc brakes, I highly recommend you upgrade or ride that much slower to negate the reduced braking power.

### **Handling**

If you have come from a road riding background or only ridden lightweight bikes, then you will be in for a shock. The extra weight will be felt over ever bump especially without a front suspension. If your ride has no front suspension, it might also be worth upgrading to improve your overall riding experience. With extra weight also comes a wider turning circle so ensure when going round tight corners that you reduce your speed and allow for a slower turning arc. The more you ride the more you will come to understand what your bike can and can't do but suffice to say err on the side of caution to ensure no horrible falls or accidents.

### **Communication**

I am not a new age guy by any means but the whole idea of a cargo ebike when riding with your kids is to have fun. Don't be a grumpy old parent and engage with your kids as you terrorise pedestrians on cycle paths. This can be a great time to talk to them and take in the sights or just have a silly chat as you ride them to school. This is one of the great benefits of riding and should not be missed as it is a genuine opportunity to connect not only with your child but your surroundings and nature.

### **Be adventurous and don't limit yourself**

It can be very easy to get stuck in a rut of just using the cargo ebike for the daily commute, but you can use it for some much more. Some great riding experiences can include:

- Family picnic
- Park crawl (like a pub crawl but for the kiddies)
- Shopping
- Trip to the beach
- Cargo ebike riding group (not sure if it exists but maybe start one)
- New uber rideshare group
- Take pet to dog park
- Café run
- City tour
- Nature ride

### What accessories do I need?

When you buy a cargo ebike you normally need to add the odd accessory to make it your own and personalise it to your unique needs and situation. There are certain accessories that really do enhance your riding and others that can probably be left off the Christmas list. Here are my must have items to improve your cargo ebike experience.

1. Cargo basket – Great for storing items in the front or rear to save you from carrying a backpack



2. Panniers – Great option for additional luggage option if front basket not your thing



3. Spare battery – Boring I know but it is great to have if you ever have an issue with your primary battery, forget to charge your ebike, or want to extend your range



4. Child seat – for those with kids under 5 years old





5. Seat cushions – Sitting on a wooden seat is not good, give some relief with a comfortable cushion and your passengers will love you



6. Mobile phone holder – There is nothing worse than your phone falling out of your pocket, these are worth it to not have to search a busy street for your dropped phone



7. Rear view mirrors – A no brainer, safer ride and not an expensive purchase



8. Monkey bars – Second line of defence for young passengers



## 07 SECURITY

It saddens me to write this, but you need to be very careful where you leave your bike. Theft of any electric bike is common and cargo ebikes are not immune to the wares of would-be burglars. It is no longer enough to have 1 or 2 locks and be satisfied that it will be left alone. You need to invest in GPS tracking and in my opinion never leave your bike out of line of site for any extended period. A lock will only slow a thief down it certainly won't deter them from having a crack at stealing your ride.

Make sure you note down your bike serial number (usually on front seat post stem) and the best advice is to insure it from day 1. You will also be requested to provide the bike serial number when making any warranty claim so ensure you know its location. If you can't locate it the supplier or manufacture will be able to guide you.

### Top rated lock brands

I don't like adding disclaimers but please note no lock is 100% secure. These locks are some of the best on the market but they are not full proof. Like anything do your research and look at getting multiple locks. The most expensive item on your electric bike is the battery so if you are unsure how long your bike will be unattended take it with you. It is also advisable to lock your bike up overnight when not in use, even if it is stored in your garage or indoors.

These 3 brands tend to dominate the lists for best locks and offer a wide range of lock products:

1 – ABUS – German manufacturer with a good reputation and locks.



2 – Kryptonite – American company with over 40 years' experience.

# KRYPTONITE®

3 – Hiplok – UK company with over 25 years' experience. "The only lock range with Gold sold secure rating".

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## 08 FINAL WORD

If you are new to the cargo ebike worldwide community or looking to become part of this movement I hope this guide is helpful. I have been riding a cargo ebike now for over a year and I sell them so maybe I am biased, but I believe they offer a genuine alternative to using the car. The amount of short haul travel that takes place with one or two people only in the car is truly mind boggling. Kids love getting on a bike and connected with their parents and the cargo ebike can be a great tool for creating beautiful memories the family will cherish for years to come.

One area I did not cover in any great details was the batteries. Remember that lithium batteries are classified as dangerous goods so where possible create a safe area to charge your battery so that in the unlikely event that anything untoward happens you are keeping your family safe from any great danger. Battery maintenance is a whole topic on its own and with the continued push for innovation in this area it is hopeful that one day a safer, more environmentally friendly battery option will be available. Surely, we can power it with rubbish like the DeLorean in Back the Future one day?

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to this guide, feel free to contact me via email or through my website.

Happy riding!

Regan Woolley  
Next Gen e-Rides

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