



► On two wheels *through autumn and winter*

Rain, mud, darkness - even the most passionate cyclist needs to show endurance in autumn and winter. With the right equipment and a few tricks, however, eBiking can be enjoyed even in the more uncomfortable months. What's more, if you do it right, cycling can help you stay fit and healthy through the cold months. That's because eBiking gets your blood pumping, strengthens the immune system, relieves stress and may even spare you from the next cold. Bosch eBike Systems offers tips for what to look out for before, during and after your trip.

1 The right equipment

"There is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes." This principle also applies when cycling in the dark months of the year. The secret of being prepared for any eventuality is layering: The bottom layer should consist of functional clothing that allows moisture to pass outwards. Windproof and waterproof outer clothing provides the right protection. In order to avoid cold fingers and to ensure you can always apply the brakes, winter gloves are the perfect answer. A headband, a thin cap or a special inner lining for helmets can help against cold ears. If the cold winter air makes your eyes water, it is best to wear goggles. And if it rains or snows? There are solutions for this too. You can get a rain cap for your helmet, waterproofs for the legs and covers for your shoes to keep you dry until you reach your destination.

2 Preparing your eBike for autumn and winter

Even the best rider equipment is no use if the eBike is not in good shape. The tires should have enough tread. Spikes can help if the ground is icy or snowy. These increase road-holding, but are only allowed for pedelecs with support up to 25 km/h. It is particularly important to protect the battery of the eBike. eBikers don't have to worry about rain and puddles as they cannot harm the components. For longer trips at sub-zero temperatures, a neoprene battery cover is available from specialist retailers.

3 See and be seen

In the dark months, it is particularly important that eBikers are clearly visible to other road users. For bicycles and pedelecs (up to 25 km/h) the law requires: A head light and white front reflector, tail light with integrated reflector and red retro-reflector, reflective strips on front and rear tires or reflectors in the spokes and two yellow reflectors on the pedals. In addition, bright clothes can help to attract attention. Reflectors are also the most effective solution here: they increase the visibility significantly.

4 Awareness on your eBike

A foresighted, careful approach is vital on slippery roads. Sudden changes of direction and sharp braking should be avoided in difficult road conditions. Especially on snow, ice or fallen leaves, it is important to use the front brake judiciously and in curves it is best neither to pedal or brake. When starting off and on slippery surfaces, you should refrain from using major motor support – for example, Turbo mode in the case of the Bosch drive system. Cyclists belong on cycle paths. This isn't always the case: if the cycle path is not sufficiently cleared, riders may use the road.

5 Important steps after a trip

Once the biker has arrived at his destination, he would probably prefer to go straight indoors. That's perfectly understandable. However there are a couple of steps he should complete first: the battery should be removed from the bike and ideally stored indoors at temperatures between 15 and 20 degrees. This also applies to built-in batteries such as the Bosch PowerTube 500. Dirt like salt from splashing water, mud or snow, which sticks to the eBike after riding, should be washed off immediately after each trip. This stops the dirt from sticking. To ensure your eBike is protected from the wind and weather, it should ideally be stored in your garage or basement after the trip. If there is no storage space for the pedelec, a bike cover can protect the bike from snow and rain.

6 "Mothballing" the eBike

Harald Sterzl, specialist consultant at Bosch eBike Systems, has words of advice for anyone who puts their eBike away for the winter: "The pedelec should be cleaned and lightly greased. I would treat the chain and exposed aluminium parts with suitable care products. The battery and display should be removed and stored in dry conditions at room temperature. It is important that the battery still has a charge capacity of between 30 and 60 percent."

Points to remember when using your battery in winter:

1. remove the battery after every trip and reinstall it shortly before starting your next trip.
2. Use a thermal protective cover to protect the battery on long trips in cold conditions.
3. In winter you can expect a reduction in the battery's range.
4. Store and charge the battery at room temperature