

Rolling Into Trouble

Why are hoverboards being banned in so many places?

Hoverboards were one of the biggest crazes this past holiday season. But some people who got the two-wheeled, battery-powered scooters as gifts might have trouble finding a place to ride them.

Hoverboards are not allowed on streets and sidewalks in New York City and in all of Great Britain. Safety concerns have led more than 30 U.S. colleges to ban or restrict the self-balancing scooters. Most major airlines don't allow passengers to bring them on board.

The most serious concern about the scooters is that some have burst into flames. In December, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Word to Know

abruptly (uh-BRUHPT-lee) *adverb*.
very suddenly or unexpectedly



Prices for most hoverboards range from about \$400 to close to \$2,000.

(CPSC) reported more than 20 incidents of hoverboards catching fire. Some ignited while being recharged, and others while people were riding them.

The CPSC is investigating the causes of the fires. In the meantime, it advises owners not to recharge their hoverboards immediately after riding them, at night, or while the boards are unattended.

Learning to ride a hoverboard can also be hazardous. As with skateboards, riding a hoverboard can be difficult to master because

it requires good balance. Riders control the motorized scooters by shifting their body weight. But some riders aren't used to the way their movements can cause their boards to **abruptly** stop or speed up.

Last year, the CPSC reported more than 70 emergency room visits related to falls from these scooters. These injuries included broken bones and damage to internal organs. The CPSC recommends that anyone who rides a hoverboard should wear a helmet and other safety gear.