

ATVs and other types of ORVs are popular, year-round utility and recreational vehicles that can offer hours of enjoyment for outdoor enthusiasts, if you obey the law and follow safety precautions.



## Be a safe and responsible rider

- Always ride sober
- [Take an ATV/ORV safety course](#)
- Stay in control – ride within your abilities
- Ride in designated areas only
- Keep noise levels low
- Do a pre-ride safety inspection

Visit: [Ontario.ca/atv](http://Ontario.ca/atv)  
[OFATV.org/bylaw-maps](http://OFATV.org/bylaw-maps)  
Read: [Smart Ride Safe Ride](#) handbook

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### Always Ride Sober

A police officer can stop ORV and ATV operators either on or off-road to demand a variety of tests to determine impairment by alcohol and/or drugs. If you fail any of these tests, or refuse to take them, you can be suspended immediately from driving and face criminal impaired driving or related charges.



## Rules of the Road

ATVs/ORVs travelling along a road must have all their lights on and be driven in the same direction of traffic on the shoulder of the road. If the shoulder is unsafe or not wide enough, an ATV/ORV can be driven on the travelled portion of the road.

Permitted ATVs/ORVs **can** travel on:

- Highways 500 to 899
- many 7000-series highways
- highways with low traffic volumes

ATVs/ORVs **cannot** travel on:

- 400-series highways
- the Queen Elizabeth Way
- sections of the Trans-Canada Highway

Please refer to [Ontario Regulation 316/03](#) for a list of provincial highways where on-road ATV/ORV use is:

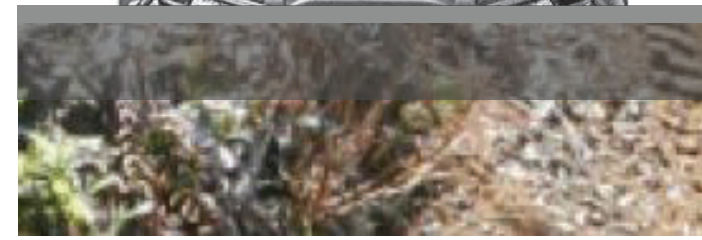
- Prohibited** → see Schedule A
- Permitted** → see Schedule B

This is a guide only. For information on the legal requirements of driving an ATV/ORV in Ontario, consult the [Off-Road Vehicles Act](#) and the [Highway Traffic Act](#).

SMART SAFE  
RIDE



What you need to know to operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and an off-road vehicle (ORV) in Ontario



## On-road Riding

Only an ATV/ORV that meets current standards and other equipment-related requirements can be used on the road. It must be insured under a motor vehicle liability policy.

ATVs/ORVs that meet these requirements can travel along certain provincial highways and municipal roads. Check with the local municipality for access on their road before heading out.

### Who can ride

For on-road riding, an ATV/ORV driver must:

- hold at least a valid G2 or M2 licence
- wear a seat belt, where provided
- travel at speeds less than the posted speed limit
- carry the vehicle registration permit or a copy

For on-road riding, an ATV/ORV passenger must wear a seat belt or use foot rests, when applicable.

An ATV/ORV driver must be at least:



16 years old  
for on-road riding



12 years old\*  
for off-road riding

A passenger on an ATV/ORV must be at least:



eight years old  
for on-road riding

\*unless directly supervised by an adult or while driving on land occupied by the ATV/ORV owner

## ATV/ORV Speed Limits

ATVs/ORVs on the road must travel at speeds less than the posted speed limit:

- no more than 20 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less
- no more than 50 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit greater than 50 km/h

Municipalities may set lower speed limits or additional rules for ATVs/ORVs.



## Off-road Riding

An ORV must be registered and display a licence plate (\*except in exempt areas like far northern Ontario). It must be insured under a motor vehicle liability policy.

These requirements also apply to other types of ORVs including two-up ATVs, side-by-side ORVs and utility terrain vehicles.

### Who can ride

For off-road riding, an ATV/ORV driver must carry the ATV/ORV's registration permit or a copy.

The driver can directly cross a highway on an ATV/ORV where permitted **only if**:

- it's registered + displays a licence plate
- it's insured under a motor vehicle liability policy
- the driver is at least 16 years old and has a valid driver's licence of any class

## Off-road Vehicle Types

### Single-rider ATV



Four wheels  
Steering handlebars  
A seat that is straddled by the driver designed to carry only a driver  
**No passengers allowed when travelling on a roadway**

### Two-up ATV



Four wheels  
Steering handlebars  
A seat that is straddled by the driver  
Seating for a passenger directly behind the driver  
Separate foot rests for the passenger

### Side-by-side ORV



Four or more wheels  
Steering wheel  
A driver's seat  
Seating for passengers beside/behind driver  
Seat belts for each seating position  
Maximum engine displacement: 1,000 cm<sup>3</sup>

### Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV)



Four or more wheels  
Steering wheel  
A driver's seat  
Seating for passengers beside/behind driver  
Seat belts for each seating position  
A cargo box with minimum cargo capacity of 159 kilograms



A single-rider ATV that has been modified to carry a passenger by installing an after-market seat and foot rests is not considered a two-up ATV.

Drivers and passengers must always wear an approved motorcycle helmet, securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap

