



5 crucial considerations when shopping for an ebike.

1. What will you be doing on your ebike? Will you be:
 - a. Riding around town on paved surfaces only? In this case, you don't need a more expensive mid-drive motor, you don't need high-spec suspension, you don't need off-road tyres, you don't need hydraulic brakes.
 - b. Riding around town, but also on light off-road trails? In this case, you need tyres that are suitable for both purposes, you may need slightly beefier suspension than for just a town bike, and a battery of 500 watt-hours or greater should be considered.
 - c. Riding more serious, one-day or multi-day trail rides? Range should be a primary consideration. Look for a bike with a battery larger than 550 watt-hours. Brakes, suspension and tyres become more important, as does the turning force (torque) of the motor. Choice of saddle is also important. And, if you're not splurging for a full-suspension bike, consider adding a quality suspension seat post to your bike.
2. What is the maximum distance you need to be able to achieve? The distance you get on a full battery depends on a number of factors including:
 - a. How much leg energy you use
 - b. How efficiently you use the mechanical gears on your ebike
 - c. How hilly is the terrain you're riding
 - d. Paved or unpaved surfaces
 - e. The size of the battery

As a rough guide, someone making full use of the mechanical gears and using moderate leg energy can expect to use around 7.5 watt-hours per km riding around town; 12 watt-hours per km riding on hilly off-road trails. So, a 500 watt-hour battery should deliver in the vicinity of 42 – 66kms of range.
3. Mid-drive motor or rear-hub motor? If most of the riding you will be doing is around town and on light trails, then a bike with a rear-hub motor will be perfectly fine and will cost you less money. Mid-drive motors shine in hilly, off-road situations.
4. The torque (turning force) of the motor. A motor with higher torque (70 newton-metres or greater) will apply more turning force (i.e. will work harder for you) than a motor with lower torque.
5. The brand of the electric system. The most common and reputable brands available on e-bikes in NZ are Bosch, Brose, Yamaha, Shimano and Bafang. Consumer Reports NZ did an in-depth review of these 5 brands last year. You can read the review [here](#).

**Print this out and take it with you when you go shopping for an e-bike.
You may also wish to download our ["Buyer's Guide to E-Bikes."](#)**