



# Bike Buyer's Guide



Cycling events are happening all over New Zealand. So hop on a bike and join us!



For most of us, the purchase of a bicycle is a significant one and so we recommend that you consider the type of bike, the size and if it is a second-hand bike, the safety of that bike. The following resources will be helpful in your decision-making.

*This resource is intended for education and informational purposes only. Users must consider their specific circumstances and meet any legal and regulatory requirements (including those relating to health and safety). The NZ Transport Agency does not accept responsibility for any loss or injury that arises from the use of or reliance upon any information contained in this resource.*

## Choosing the right type of bike

Before you make a purchase, you will need to consider:

- What type of riding you intend to do
- How often you intend to ride
- Health considerations.

Helpful online resources:

- <http://www.ebicycles.com/article/what-type-of-bicycle-should-i-buy.html>

Pay your local bike store a visit; generally, you will find knowledgeable staff members who are prepared to help you choose a bike that is right for you.

## Choosing the right size bike

Now that you have decided on the type of bike you need, you are ready to shop! Choosing the right size bike will help your comfort level whilst riding. The more comfortable you are the more you will enjoy the cycling experience. There are many factors to consider in getting the right size, such as: frame sizes, seat position, handle bar shape and width, wheel size and crank length. Again, your local bike shop can help with selecting the right size – and with your setup.

Bicycle frame size calculator [http://www.avantiplus.co.nz/content/bike\\_buyers\\_guide.html](http://www.avantiplus.co.nz/content/bike_buyers_guide.html)

For tips on seat position, handle bars, wheels, pedals and cranks visit <https://www.ebicycles.com/article/what-size-bicycle-do-i-need.html>

## Buying a safe used bike

### Where to find a quality used bike

Buying a new bike from a bike shop generally assures you that the bike is safe and roadworthy, but buying new is not always an option.

Places to look for used bikes include markets, pawnshops, garage sales and police auctions. Online shopping is another great option, especially as it allows you time to research the bike, size and condition. Check out 'Trade Me' and similar websites.

### What should you pay for a used bike?

It is worthwhile doing a little homework. Compare the model and age of the bike you are considering against a similar bike online on sites such as Trade Me and at the bike shop. Factor in the cost of repairing the used bike you are considering, to see if it stacks up.

### Evaluating a used bicycle

If you are unsure about the condition of a used bike, take it to your local bike shop for inspection before you commit to buying it. The frame and drivetrain are usually the most costly items to replace, so make sure you check them over.

**Frame Set:** It is inevitable that a used bike will have a few dings and scratches. Major dings

are a concern. Check the frame joints – make sure the welds are even, and walk away if there are any cracks. Check the front fork to make sure there is no movement or flexing of the forks. Don't be fooled by a bright and shiny frame – most of the wear and tear on a bike is unseen and hidden inside the hubs and bottom bracket, as described in the next paragraph.

**Drivetrain:** The drivetrain includes the cranks, sprockets (cogs), and chain. These components can be costly to replace. Wiggle the crank set by holding a pedal in each hand and rock them from side to side. Any side to side movement indicates problems with the bottom bracket, which is not a cheap fix. Turn the pedals with the rear wheel off the ground; there should be no clunking or crunching. Whilst turning the pedals, change gears to make sure that the gears are shifting crisply. Also, check the rear derailleur hanger for bends or cracking.

Remember, however, that some issues can appear to be major problems, yet may just require some adjustment. If in doubt, ask someone who is knowledgeable for assistance or insight. The local bike shop can also be called on for an opinion and for sourcing your cycling items.

Helpful on line resource:

- <http://www.mnn.com/green-tech/transportation/stories/how-to-buy-a-great-used-bicycle>

Other items to check include handlebars, saddle, brakes and wheels. These are included in the BIANZ Safety Checklist over the page.

## BIANZ Cycle Safety Check List

	PASS	FAIL	PRICE TO FIX
<b>Handlebars</b>			
Handlebar stem is securely tightened			
Handlebar stem is in line with frame			
Handlebars are level and aligned			
Handlebar grips are secure			
<b>Pedals</b>			
Both left & right pedals are secure			
<b>Chain Set</b>			
Sits straight in the frame			
Turns freely through a complete rotation			
Pedal crank lock nuts are secure			
<b>Wheels Tyres</b>			
Both tyres have enough tread			
Both wheel rims are straight			
Tyres inflated to recommended pressure			
<b>Chain</b>			
Chain moves freely with no catching			
Chain joining link is securely fastened			
% wear of chain			
<b>Derailleurs</b>			
Can be adjusted up/down through the gears			
All cables run smoothly with no sign of damage			
<b>Seat</b>			
Seat is adjusted to suit the rider			
Seat is secure in line with the frame			
Seat does not exceed max extension mark			
<b>Brakes</b>			
Brake pads are securely attached to the arms			
Wheels stop instantly when brakes applied			
Total cost to fix			

## A bicycle breakdown

1 Seat/saddle  
2 Seat post  
3 Rear wheel  
4 Front wheel  
5 Pedal  
6 Derailleur  
7 Brake levers

8 Brake pads  
9 Headset  
10 Crank  
11 Tyre  
12 Rim  
13 Handlebars  
14 Cables

15 Fork  
16 Chainring  
17 Spoke  
18 Cassette  
19 Hub  
20 Chain

