

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) -

Useful, Fun, Dangerous

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are a familiar sight on farms, in big backyards, and anywhere people can ride for fun. Four-wheelers can be useful for hauling equipment or getting from one place to another quickly. But their increased use has also led to more serious injuries and deaths. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that about 650 deaths and 100,000 injuries happen each year in the U.S. related to ATVs.

All-terrain vehicles are fast and responsive, but they're also heavy and powerful, and can easily tip over, trapping people underneath or causing collisions.



Getting Ready to Ride

- ✓ ATVs are designed and built for specific uses and applications. Never modify an ATV as it can affect braking, steering, and stability.
- ✓ Always follow manufacturer specifications for operation and maintenance.
- ✓ Keep your ATV in good condition at all times, including controls, brakes, cables, and tires.
- ✓ Because of their size and power, 26% of all ATV accidents involve children and teens.
 - The National Safety Council reports that ATVs with an engine size of 70cc to 90cc should only be operated by someone at least 12 years old.
 - ATVs with an engine size over 90cc should only be operated by people who are at least 16 years old.
 - All drivers under age 16 should be supervised by an adult.
- ✓ Regardless of age, all operators should be trained using a course from the ATV Safety Institute or similar instruction.
- ✓ The Centers for Disease Control have an information sheet for ATV use during work at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2012-167>.
- ✓ Wear appropriate riding gear at all times. This includes DOT-ANSI-approved helmets, goggles, gloves, over-the-ankle boots, a long-sleeve shirt, and long pants.

Check out our [Safety Tips page](#) for more safety information.

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