SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

The State of California requires that golf carts be the shape and size that conforms to the industry standards of manufactured electric golf carts. The golf cart must be equipped with the following:

- Seat belts
- Front and rear turn signal indicator lights
- Headlights
- Rear lights
- Brake lights
- Mirrors, one of the following selections
  - Left and right side mirrors
  - Left side and rear view mirrors
  - Multi-directional cross bar mirror
- Red reflectors; required on the left and right rear of the cart between 15 and 60 inches above the ground. (CVC 24607)
- Parking brake
- Windshield
- Backup buzzer
- Horn
- Covered passenger compartment
- Unobstructed view to the rear
- Locking device

Helpful Hints

Many manufacturers utilize standard keys for individual golf carts. Extra precaution should be given to locking your golf cart in public places. A locksmith may modify or replace the golf cart-locking device for your protection. Other security devices are also available.

It is an industry estimate that a fully charged golf cart can travel 20 miles. Be sure to know the range of your golf cart before traveling on public streets. A "state of charge" gauge is highly recommended.

Contact Information

For more information and inspection, please contact:

City of Palm Desert
Code Enforcement Department
73510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 348-0611

REQUISITES

Inspection

Once your golf cart is modified with safety equipment, your next step is to schedule an appointment to have a code enforcement officer come to your home for an inspection. If the proper safety equipment is installed on the golf cart, then a permit may be issued.

Operation Requirements

All rules of the road that pertain to automobiles pertain to golf carts, including the prohibition of alcoholic beverages. You must have a valid driver's license to operate a golf cart on public streets. Golf carts do not accelerate and travel as fast as automobiles, so know the capability of your golf cart—especially when crossing intersections.

Only two people may ride in the golf cart while in operation, including the driver. All occupants must be secured with seat belts while the cart is in operation. Younger children must utilize appropriate car seats.

Golf carts may be operated on public streets between one hour prior to sunrise and one hour after sunset.

Insurance Information

You and your golf cart must be adequately insured and proof of insurance or financial responsibility must be carried at all times.

How to get started

A golf cart may be operated on a public street with a valid permit. The cost of the permit is $10, and it is valid for two years. Permits are adhered to the right rear fender of the golf cart after it has been inspected for safety equipment.