

Bicycle Licensing - Requirements and Locations (updated 3/11)

highlights denote jurisdiction where licenses are required

Jurisdiction	Cost	Location/Hours	Phone
City of Capitola	new: \$9 renewal: \$6	City of Capitola Police Department: 422 Capitola Ave; Capitola Mon 12 pm - 5pm; Tues - Thurs 8 am - 5 pm; Fri 8 am -12 pm	(831) 475-4242
City of Santa Cruz	new: \$3 renewal: \$3	City Finance Dept: 809 Center St., Rm 101, Santa Cruz; Mon-Thurs 9 am-5 pm Any Fire Department (no specific hours)	(831) 420-5070 (831) 420-5280
City of Scotts Valley	free	Police Department Dispatch Center: 1 Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley Open 24 hours	(831) 438-2326
City of Watsonville	new: \$9 renewal: \$9	Police Department: 215 Union St., Records Division, Watsonville Mon - Thurs 8 am - 6 pm	(831) 768-3370
UC Santa Cruz	free	Office of Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports; Mon - Frid 9 am-5 pm	(831) 459-2806
Unincorporated County	n/a	not available	

Where needed:

- Residence location of the operator does not matter; only riding location does. Similar to motor vehicle registration, the license is uniform throughout the state of California.
- Registration of bicycles is required in Santa Cruz County except in the City of Scotts Valley and in the unincorporated area.

Vehicle Code and local ordinance references:

- Bicycle licensing regulations are specified in the California Vehicle Code (sections 39001 and 39002): http://dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/vc/tocd16_7.htm
- Local governments, through the municipal code, determine whether licenses are needed in order to operate bicycles in that jurisdiction.
- Local Ordinances: City of Capitola 10.44.010; City of Santa Cruz 10.68.110; City of Watsonville 4.1.05; UCSC Code #29

Renewal frequency:

- Bicycle licenses "shall be renewed uniformly throughout the state on January 1 of the third year following the year of registration". For example, if a license was purchased on Jan 1, 2010, renewal is required on Jan 1, 2013. If a license was purchased on July 20, 2010, renewal on Jan 1, 2013 is also required.