

5 (or so) sites & 10 videos

# Drone Rules

Read this column online, with links, at [www.littleclickers.com/drones](http://www.littleclickers.com/drones)

Drones are a mixture of the powerful technologies, many of which didn't exist a few years ago. Today you can purchase a drone for about the price of a bicycle that can fly for 20 minutes while taking clear, stable videos. Your new eyes in the sky requires new responsibilities, so let's take a crash course in flying a drone.

**1. How high can I legally fly?** 400 feet; or a 40 story building. At the <https://faadronezone.faa.gov> you'll find a set of rules that include:

- Only fly for fun. You must register with the FAA if you are hired for a job, such as to take photos of a roof. If the police spot you flying an unregistered drone or if someone complains, you could get fined.
- Fly during the daytime, when you can see your drone.
- Your drone can't be too big. But this shouldn't be a problem, because the FAA says it must weigh less than 55 lbs (a heavy suitcase).
- You must always keep your drone in view when flying.
- Stay away from other aircraft or emergency response efforts.
- Never fly over active roads, moving traffic or people.
- Be aware of controlled airspace, such as around military bases or around airports.

**2. Can anyone fly a drone?** There are more and more rules about drones. If you're serious you should register your drone with the FAA (Federal Aviation Association). It only costs \$5, and takes a few minutes. Visit <https://www.faa.gov/uas/> to learn more.

**3. What does UAS stand for?** Unmanned Aircraft Systems. That's what a drone is. Check out this college degree in UAS, at Embry-Riddle University <http://bitly.com/2rrOu4r>

**4. I'm really serious about drones, and I don't want a toy. What should I get?** You have a lot of choices. One of our testers uses a the DJI Spark for about \$550. It can fly for about 20 minutes and works with your smart phone. It comes with crash guards and spare parts.

**APPLICATION: MAKE A DRONE OBSTACLE COURSE**  
Sharpen your drone flying skills! Check out this drone store, full of ideas for making a drone obstacle course <http://bitly.com/2KAVAMw>.

Or you can make one inside your house. Here's a plan we found [http://thomasrenck.com/share/Microdrone Course Project.pdf](http://thomasrenck.com/share/Microdrone%20Course%20Project.pdf)

From: a field guide to civilian drones, in the New York Times <https://nyti.ms/2k50qn9>

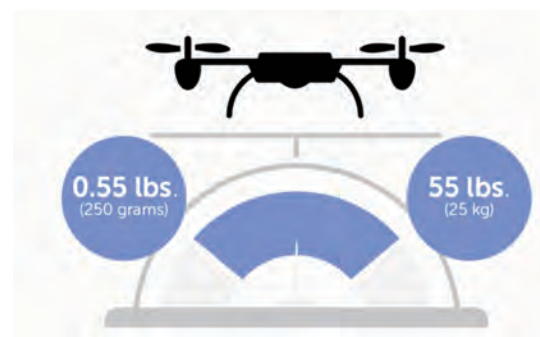
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## Drones Rules on YouTube

Want more? Here's a video playlist that go along with this column

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHHzUUEKwkj8iyWUE2AkOCFmenf18PT&jct=niOT3T1DwhG38mwjMlipaf1qb91k6A>

