

Riders – Zone Out

When we are riding a bike, car doors can open quickly and unexpectedly – and catch us by surprise.

An open door can suddenly make a vehicle 90 cm wider than we thought and place an obstacle right in our path.

The trick is to stay out of the door zone.

Ask yourself: if all cars parked with their doors open, where would you place yourself on the road as you cruised by?

That is the position you need to be all the time; far enough out so that your handlebar would not clip an open door.

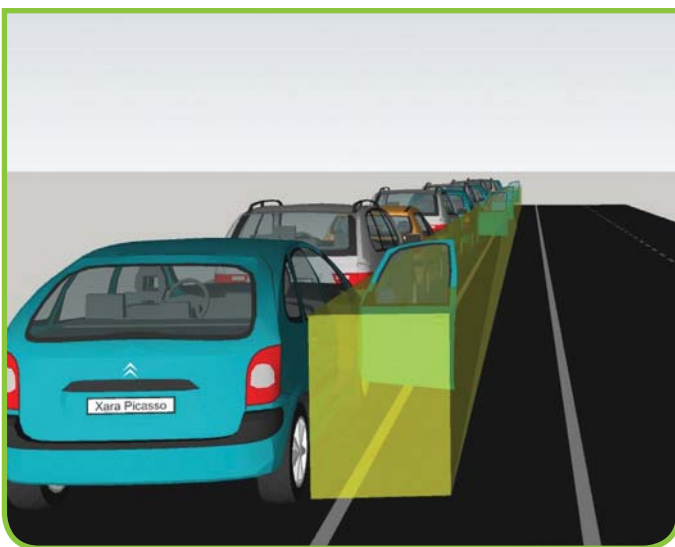
Don't be afraid to ride on the outer edge of the bike lane, where there is one, or at least 90 cm out from the parked cars on any street.

Following vehicles will generally give you a wide berth and the risk of getting hit by a car from behind is low.

Stay alert for the tell-tale signs of people in cars - the shape of someone behind the wheel, an interior light or the sound of a door popping. On busy parking streets be prepared to stop quickly.

Even though a “dooring” is always the driver’s fault legally, you can prevent a serious injury if you take just a little more care when riding.

Give yourself the best chance of an incident free trip every time you ride.



The trick is to stay out of the door zone.

Find out more

For further information about Operation Door Knock, and to be kept up to date with the latest news on action to improve the streets for bike riders, become a Friend of Bicycle Network Victoria for free and join a community of more than 80,000 people. We will keep you up to date with the latest news relevant to bike riders everywhere. Sign up today at bicyclenetwork.com.au

Please do not litter

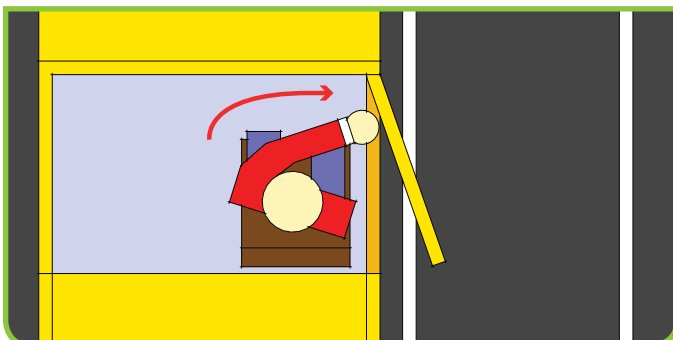
Drivers – Lead with the left

It's time for Australian drivers to learn smart new habits for getting out of and into vehicles.

Our hospitals are busy with bike riders who have been injured by the thoughtless opening of car doors. There are about two “doorings” in Melbourne each week. When a bike rider is “doored”, drivers are always legally liable.

Getting out – the bike aware way

1. Check the mirror for bikes behind.
2. Reach for the door handle with the left (inside) hand (as per the image below). This will twist your body slightly and make checking easier.
3. Open the door a little and look back up the road for bikes and other vehicles.
4. If clear get out of the vehicle and cross to the footpath at the rear of the car so you have a view of traffic approaching from behind.
5. Don't be distracted by using your mobile phone.



Getting in – the bike aware way

1. Put your mobile phone away, step off the footpath at the front of the vehicle, and before approaching the door, look back up the street for approaching bikes.
2. If there is a bike in view, stop right there. If the bike has to swerve to get around you then you have committed an offence.
3. When the coast is clear, open the door and get in quickly.

Passengers should remember that getting out of a car at the lights or when stopped in traffic can be a hazard to bike riders and can result in police issuing a ticket.

Thank you...

...for participating in Operation Door Knock, the campaign aimed at reducing the incidence of “dooring” collisions. Operation Door Knock is an initiative of Road Safety Action Group Inner Melbourne (RSAGIM) and Bicycle Network Victoria. It is supported by Victoria Police and the Amy Gillett Foundation.

RSAGIM is a community safety program supported by the cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Yarra and Stonnington and funded through the Victorian Community Road Safety Partnership.