

VicRoads warns drivers and passengers to look before they open

Higher penalties for causing a hazard with a vehicle door, or more commonly known as 'dooring'.

VicRoads advises new, higher penalties now apply for offences relating to causing a hazard with a vehicle door.

Rule 269(3) of the Victorian Road Safety Road Rules 2009, states it is an offence to cause a hazard to a person or a vehicle by opening a door, leaving a door of a vehicle open or getting off or out of a vehicle.

As of 2 August 2012, the on-the-spot fine for this offence will increase from \$141 (one penalty unit) to \$352 (2.5 penalty units) and the maximum court penalty from \$423 (three penalty units) to \$1408 (ten penalty units).

This increase is to reflect the risk to bike riders and other road users from the risks of vehicle doors opening in their path.

Tips for drivers and passengers

When getting out of your car, always use your mirrors and do a head check before opening your door (one way to do this is to open the driver's door with your left hand).

When getting into your car, face the oncoming traffic so you can see bike riders and other road users travelling towards you. Do not open your car door until they have passed.

For more information visit
vicroads.vic.gov.au/cardoors