

Why does dooring matter to you? It can kill or injures cyclists. It's expensive. Depending upon the nature of the crash, you may need a new bike or incur high costs to repair your bicycle, obtain health care, and hire legal counsel. It may also cost you money if you're unable to work due to injuries.

**DOORING**  
- (v.) the act of opening a car door into an oncoming cyclist

Serious injuries and deaths have been caused by dooring. Dooring can be prevented by following these simple steps:

**Why should drivers care?**  
It is against the law to open a vehicle door into moving traffic, including bicycle traffic, unless it is safe to do so. Chicago Municipal Code § 9-80-035.  
You will likely be held liable for the bicyclist's injuries, including medical bills, and property damage.  
In the event of a death, you will likely be liable to provide monetary compensation to the bicyclist's family.  
Sharing the road safely is not just the law, it is the right thing to do.

**WHAT STEPS CAN DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS TAKE TO PREVENT DOORING?**

- Look before you open the door.
- Open your door with your right hand - this will encourage you to turn and see the traffic behind you.
- Open your door slowly while maintaining a lookout for bicyclists.
- Educate friends and family about dooring.

**WHAT STEPS CAN A CYCLIST TAKE TO PREVENT DOORING?**

- Always use front and rear lights
- Stay 3 ft to the left of parked cars whenever possible.
- Avoid passing taxis on the right. This is the side passengers disembark.
- Look ahead at all times for the following:  
Brake lights  
Exhaust  
Driver or passenger movement or reflection in side view mirrors
- If you believe there is a probable chance of getting doored, look behind you to see traffic conditions. If it is busy, avoid swerving. Instead, brake gently. Take the lane if you can, safely. Signal and merge left.

**Why should cyclists care?**  
Dooring kills, and/or injures cyclists.  
Depending upon the extent of damage, you may need a new bike or incur high costs to repair your bicycle, obtain healthcare, and hire legal counsel.

**WHAT TO DO AFTER A CRASH**

1. Stay calm and remove yourself from further danger.
2. Call 911 and report what happened. Request police and an ambulance to the scene.
3. Seek immediate medical attention.
4. Get information: driver's license number, license plate number, driver's contact info, date, time and location of crash, and witness contact info. Take photos if possible.
5. Call the Active Trans Crash Support Hotline - 312.869.4357. It is staffed by fellow cyclists.

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What steps can a cyclist take to prevent dooring?

- \* Always use front and back lights on your bike.
- \* Stay 3 ft to the left of parked cars whenever possible – out of the door zone.
- \* Avoid passing taxis on the right. This is the side passengers disembark.
- \* Look ahead at all times for the following:  
Brake lights  
Exhaust  
Driver or passenger's movement or reflection in side view mirrors
- \* If you believe there is a probable chance of getting doored, look behind you to see traffic conditions.
- \* If there's no room to move left, avoid swerving. Instead, brake gently.
- \* Take the lane if you can, safely. Signal and merge left.