

Hijacking Avoidance Techniques

DISCLAIMER:

This guide is intended for **general awareness and preventative education** within the South African context. It does not replace professional security advice, law-enforcement guidance, or driver training. Crime patterns and risks vary by area and circumstance. Bilnor Staffing Solutions accepts no liability for actions taken based on this guide. Personal safety should always be prioritised, and all actions must remain within the bounds of South African law.

Vehicle hijacking remains one of South Africa's most traumatic and violent crimes. It often occurs quickly, with perpetrators relying on surprise, intimidation, and familiarity with driver behaviour.

This guide focuses on avoidance, awareness, and risk reduction. The objective is not confrontation, but prevention and early detection — reducing the likelihood of becoming a target and improving decision-making under pressure.

Understanding Hijacking in South Africa

Hijackings typically occur:

- At residential driveways and gates
- At traffic lights, stop streets, and congestion points
- During early mornings or evenings
- When drivers are distracted, fatigued, or predictable

Criminals often work in groups and may use:

- Forced stops or blocked driveways
- Distraction techniques
- Stolen or hijacked vehicles
- Weapons to intimidate rather than immediately harm

Pre-Drive Awareness and Preparation

Vehicle Readiness

- Ensure doors lock automatically when driving
- Keep windows closed or only slightly open in traffic
- Maintain sufficient fuel levels
- Ensure mirrors are correctly adjusted

Mental Readiness

- Avoid driving when overly tired or distracted
- Remain alert when approaching known hotspots
- Trust your instincts — hesitation can increase risk

Route Planning and Timing

- Vary routes and travel times where possible
- Avoid predictable schedules
- Identify safe areas along regular routes (petrol stations, police stations, busy shopping centres)

- Be cautious when using navigation apps that reroute through unfamiliar or isolated areas

Defensive Driving Techniques

At Traffic Lights and Intersections

- Leave enough space to manoeuvre between vehicles
- Remain in gear and ready to move
- Scan mirrors and surroundings continuously
- Avoid distractions such as mobile phones

In Traffic or Congestion

- Be alert to pedestrians approaching your vehicle
- Watch for vehicles stopping unusually close behind you
- Change lanes or pull into a busy area if you feel unsafe

Approaching Your Home

Residential driveways are high-risk zones.

- Slow down before turning into your street and scan for unusual activity
- If unsure, drive past your home and circle the block
- Avoid stopping directly outside your gate if anything feels suspicious
- Use hooters, headlights, or remote controls only when ready to enter

Parking Safety

- Park in well-lit, busy areas
- Reverse into parking bays where possible for quicker exits
- Avoid sitting in a parked vehicle while distracted
- Lock doors immediately after entering the vehicle

If You Suspect You Are Being Followed

- Do not drive home
- Change direction and increase visibility by entering a busy area
- Use petrol stations or shopping centres as safe zones
- Contact your tracking or security service if available

During a Hijacking Attempt

- Prioritise your life over the vehicle
- Remain calm and comply where necessary
- Avoid eye contact and sudden movements
- Do not resist unless escape is clearly possible and safe

Vehicles are replaceable. Lives are not.

After a Hijacking

- Get to a place of safety immediately

- Contact SAPS and your tracking/security provider
- Seek medical attention if needed
- Consider trauma counselling — shock and stress responses are common

Highjacking avoidance is about awareness, preparation, and decisiveness. Most incidents occur within seconds — those seconds are influenced by habits built long before an incident occurs. **Prepared drivers reduce risk.** Alert drivers save lives. **Bilnor Staffing Solutions:** Promoting safety, awareness, and responsible preparedness within South Africa.