



HIJACKING

Know the facts!

Survey finds most hijackings happen at residential homes, while parked cars and traffic lights feature in top ten most dangerous hijack spots.

More than half of all hijackings in South Africa happen at homes in South Africa. And you are more than ten times more likely to be hijacked outside your house than at your place of business. These are the startling findings of a comprehensive survey released by national real estate network RE/MAX.

Commenting on the RE/MAX Home Security survey, Marketing and Finance Director Jeanne van Jaarsveldt noted that 52% of all hijackings take place in front of private residential properties. "The good news, however, is that the risk to home-owners can significantly be reduced by being aware of your surroundings".

"These findings underline the importance of assisting South Africans in making their home environment safe," says van Jaarsveldt. To achieve this, RE/MAX surveyed their more than 2 200 Sales Associates and over 190 Broker/Owners in research designed to significantly improve residential home security.

Van Jaarsveldt says the RE/MAX survey showed that precautions are the most important aspect of preventing a hijacking situation.

Take note of the following to make your home safer for you and your family:

- Be familiar with your environment and get to know who belongs in the vicinity. Keep your eyes open for anything out of the ordinary, lock doors and close windows when driving off and try to vary your route to work.
- It is vital to always be alert for potential danger.

It is a state that may be uncomfortable at the beginning, but becomes second nature as a home owner realizes how vigilance can lead to peace of mind."

- Recommendations from the RE/MAX survey include a long list of important tips to employ by home owners. This includes always having your keys ready, but not visible; inspecting the inside and outside of vehicles before unlocking; having a light on at home when returning after dark; when exiting a vehicle at home, to be cautious of surrounding obstructions and never to be sitting in a parked car without being aware of your surroundings.
- Most importantly, says Van Jaarsveldt, is that residents should always be aware of suspicious vehicles or persons when approaching their driveways.

Positive contribution

"We are positive about the contribution this survey will make in reducing the sense that a lack of safety and security is rampant"

"It is therefore very encouraging to note that awareness on the part of the homeowner can reduce the risk of hijackings significantly."

Van Jaarsveldt adds that "the health of the real estate market in South Africa is contingent on a number of factors, and one of the more important ones is the safety of homes and their owners. It is good to know that prevention starts with awareness.

One of South Africa's foremost authorities

on hijackings, Anthony Altbeker, whose recently published book "A country at War with Itself" is making headlines here and abroad commended RE/MAX for their effort. "Surveys like this one do make a difference" he says, adding that "often the best defense in a hijacking situation is to ensure vigilance which has been achieved to great effect by the RE/MAX survey."

"RE/MAX believes that there is so much to live for and be proud about being a South African and that homeownership, accompanied by safety and security for each family is a basic right that each South African wants to enjoy within the walls of his own home.

RE/MAX of Southern Africa is part of the global RE/MAX network, comprising a presence in more than 65 countries. In South Africa, more than 60 000 people were assisted by the network of dedicated agents to find new homes last year.

For more information on the RE/MAX Hijacking Survey and how to safeguard your property and ensure higher investment value, visit remax.co.za.

The RE/MAX Hijacking Survey was done in conjunction with Marcus Brewster Publicity.



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