



Put BearWise® to Work For You

Who Uses BearWise

- Homeowners, Travelers
- Communities, HOAs
- Teachers, Parents
- Realtors, Outdoor Stores
- Short-Term Rentals
- Resorts, Restaurants
- Colleges, Camps
- Military Bases
- First Nations
- Visitor Centers
- Educators, Interpreters
- Bear Biologists
- Agencies, Parks & Forests
- Municipalities
- Journalists, Media



Be BearWise OUTDOORS

Six Outdoor BearWise Basics

- Stay Alert & Stay Together**
Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog, or cycle with others when possible. Keep kids within sight and close by. Leave earbuds at home and make noise periodically so bears can avoid you.
- Leave No Trace**
Double bag scraps or take them home. Do not leave anything behind.
- Keep Dog Leashed**
Letting dogs off-leash can scare bears and put them on guard.
- Camp Safely**
Set up camp as far from water as possible. Store food in bear-resistant containers.
- Know What to Do**
If you see a bear, do not run. Stay calm and back away slowly. If a bear charges, lie flat on the ground.
- Carry Bear Spray**
Bear spray is a bear's natural defense. Carry it and know how to use it.



Be BearWise AT HOME

Six At-Home BearWise Basics

- Never Feed or Approach Bears**
Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people looking for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs!
- Secure Food, Garbage and Recycling**
Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.
- Remove Bird Feeders When Bears Are Active**
Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they're very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.
- Never Leave Pet Food Outdoors**
Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.
- Clean & Store Grills**
Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.
- Alert Neighbors to Bear Activity**
See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share information on how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.

Black bear is a species; common colors include black, brown and cinnamon.



Coasters



Stuff for Kids



Checklist & Fact Sheets



How BearWise Are You?

Bears are curious and will follow their powerful noses to just about anything with an odor (it doesn't have to be a good odor). Bears may also investigate anything they've learned can yield a food reward: garbage, birdseed, pet food, chickens, beehives... you get the idea.

Use our **Be BearWise Checklist** to learn what attracts bears and how you can keep bears away from your home and property.

BBQ Grills, Smokers

- Grill and/or smoker is stored inside when not in use. If not:
- Drip pans and grates are cleaned after every use.
- Grill/smoker is kept covered.
- Utensils are stored indoors.
- Food is not left unattended when cooking or eating outdoors.

Be BearWise: Keep a bucket out when you cook-out. Thoroughly clean grills and smokers.



Trash, Recycling

- All trash containers are cleaned often to reduce odors.
- Recycling is rinsed out and clean.
- Bear-resistant trash containers are always closed and latched.

If containers are not bear-resistant:

- Regular trash cans are stored inside a sturdy locked building or bear-resistant enclosure.
- Garbage is put out the morning of pick up (not the night before).

Be BearWise: For certified bear-resistant containers and ways to modify your standard trash cans, visit BearWise.org.

Vehicles Parked Outside

- No food or anything with a fragrance is left in vehicles, car trunks or trash bins, including pet food, birdseed, food, beverages, scented air fresheners and trash.
- Vehicle windows are kept fully closed and doors locked.

Be BearWise: Keep a small trash bag in your vehicle and empty daily. Use an odor-removing spray. Roll up and lock up.

Feeding Birds

- Birds/hummingbirds are not fed when bears are active in your area.
- Bird food is stored in bear-resistant containers or inside a sturdy, locked building.

If you feed birds when bears are active:

- Bird food and feeders are brought in nightly.
- Fallen birdseed and leftover food is picked up daily before dark.

Be BearWise: Download our bulletin: **Attract Birds, Not Bears for feeder-free options.**

Feeding Pets, Strays

- Food is not put outside for stray animals or wildlife.
- Pets are fed indoors.
- If you must feed pets outside:
- Pets are fed in single portions; bowls are removed and feeding area cleaned as soon as pets have eaten.
- Pet food is stored in a sturdy locked building or bear-resistant containers.

Be BearWise: Download our bulletin: **Dogs + Bears + Problems for more safety tips.**

continued >



Stickers & Magnets



Thanks for being BearWise and helping keep bears wild

Discounts available online. Questions? call 303.810.2850 or email: support@bearwise.org



MORE >>>

BearWise.org



BearWise.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO...

Learn about black bears and how to avoid conflicts



Download free fact sheets and order BearWise stuff

BearWise BULLETIN #1

Attract Birds, Not Bears

You don't have to choose between watching birds and being BearWise. Just think outside the bird feeder, and you'll discover how easy it is to invite in birds without attracting bears.

Grow Your Own Bird Food
Sunflowers, coneflowers, asters and marigolds are just a few of the flowers that produce seeds birds like to eat. Colorful tubular flowers are Mother Nature's always-filled hummingbird feeders. Many bushes and trees attract insects and produce seeds while also providing safe places to perch and nest. Containers, window boxes and hanging baskets make it easy to offer up a smorgasbord for birds, butterflies and pollinators.

CAUTION: Most fruits, nuts and berries attract bears and other wildlife. If bears are common in your area, it's best to avoid planting them. Even if bears are only occasional visitors, you should plant well away from the house, pick fruits before they are fully ripe, and consider electric fencing around fruit and nut bearing trees.

What Attracts Bears?
Natural Foods • Shelter • Water • Safe Nesting Sites

Create a Natural Oasis
No matter how much or how little space you have, you can add features that will attract birds. Using native plants, commonly found in your area, including trees, bushes and bushes, provides proven food sources and shelter from predators and bad weather. An added benefit for people: native plants attract more species and are often easier to grow and care for than non-native plants. **TIP: Avoid pesticides;** many birds rely on insects for a big part of their diet.

Offer Shelter And Perches
Bears need places to perch and to hide from predators. Small branching trees and shrubs provide perches and shelter. A colorful wind chime, sculpture or other decoration can also provide a handy perch.

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Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears

Door Hangers

What Attracts Bears?

Learn how you can help keep bears wild
BearWise.org

Dogs + Bears = Problem

If you live in or travel to bear country and own a dog, sooner or later your dog may encounter a bear. Understanding why some encounters end peacefully and others end with dogs and people being injured or killed can help keep people, dogs and bears safe.

Dogs were involved in more than half of the incidents involving people and black bears between 2010-2014. Just under half (46%) of those dogs were injured or killed. Bear-human companions did not fare quite as well, with 42% of them being injured. Many of the dogs involved had been left alone in a situation that can easily result in the dog chasing or cornering a bear and being injuriously killed, or running and turning back to its owner on an aggressive bear close behind.

Bears Will Protect Their Food
Bears will typically defend any food source, particularly something as common as trash, food, garbage or bait. A dog that interrupts a bear's dinner is asking for trouble. A person who corners between a defensive bear and an aggressive dog is putting their life at risk.

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Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears

More Fact Sheets

BearWise Outdoor Safety Tips

Black bears are seldom aggressive and rarely injure people. Follow these BearWise tips to avoid encounters.

Camping

- Keep a clean camp.
- Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.
- **Do not store food, trash, clothes when cooking, or toiletries in your tent.** Store in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in a locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree.
- Cook downwind and as far from your tent as possible.
- Set up backcountry camps away from dense cover and natural food sources.

Hiking, Walking

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to hike alone.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Make noise periodically so bears in the area can avoid you.
- **Keep dogs leashed at all times, or leave them at home.** Don't feed or leave them behind!
- Double bag your food and pack out all food and trash. Leaving scraps or wrappers or "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.

Fishing, Hunting

- You are more likely to encounter bears when moving quietly and trailing early and late day when bears are most active.
- Follow tips for hiking and camping safely.
- Be especially alert at dawn and dusk when bears are most active. Black bears are fast and hard to see.
- If you hit a bear, don't try to help it. Call 911 or report to authorities as soon as you can. Wildlife collisions are not always covered by insurance.

Driving in Bear Country

- Stay alert. Stick to the speed limit and watch for cubs before you drive on.
- Be especially alert at dawn and dusk when bears are most active. Black bears are fast and hard to see.
- If you hit a bear, don't try to help it. Call 911 or report to authorities as soon as you can. Wildlife collisions are not always covered by insurance.

Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

Bear spray is very effective. It's proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work if you're afraid to use it. Carry it with you, and know how to use it.

If You Encounter a Black Bear

- If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy the moment, then quietly move away.
- If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run, running may trigger a chase response.
- If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell "Hey Bear!" until it leaves. Always stay with your group.
- If the bear keeps approaching, use bear spray.
- If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead. Fight back aggressively.

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BearWise Vacation Tips

You are in bear country, so there's a good chance you'll see black bears, even if you never go into the woods.

Don't Feed the Bears

- Don't leave food, trash or pet food outdoors unless you are around. A few seconds is all it takes for a hungry bear to swipe it.
- Feeding bears or using food to encourage bears to approach you is often illegal and always dangerous.
- Don't throw scraps or leftovers out the car window or into the woods behind your vacation rental.
- If trash container or dumpster is full, don't pile trash outside. Take it with you when you leave.

Bear Viewing Guidelines

- Stay in your vehicle even bears that seem comfortable around people are still wild animals.
- Never approach bears or enter them to approach you.
- Enjoy bears from a safe distance. Stay at least 50 yards or 10 car lengths away.
- Don't block the road to view bears. If permitted, pull over and take photos from the safety of your vehicle.
- If you want to see bears, early morning and early evening are good times for viewing and photography.

Discourage Break-Ins

- Lock vehicles, close bear windows open even a crack. Remove anything with an odor (food, drinks, trash, pet food, scented products).
- Keep exterior doors closed, even when you're there.
- Don't stash food, beverages, trash or recycling on porches/patios/decks.

If You See a Black Bear

- If a bear comes around your picnic, try to leave it away by making lots of noise, yelling or banging pots and pans together from a safe distance.
- If you see a bear near a dumpster or in a building, don't approach or corner it. Give the bear an escape route.

In the Woods

- **Carry bear spray and know how to use it.** If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy the moment, then quietly move away.
- **If a bear sees you, back away slowly.** Never run, running may trigger a chase response.
- **If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell "Hey Bear!" until it leaves.** Always stay with your group.
- **If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead. Fight back aggressively.**

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Whistles & Outdoor Safety Cards

BearWise Outdoor Safety

Black bears are seldom aggressive and rarely injure people. Follow these BearWise tips to avoid encounters.

Hiking

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to hike alone.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Make noise periodically so bears can avoid you.
- Stay alert; music and phones are distracting.
- Keep dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home.
- Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble. Don't force a bear to defend itself.
- Double bag your food and pack out all food and trash.
- Leaving scraps, wrappers or "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.

Camping

- **Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent.**
- Store these items in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in a locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. Local storage regulations vary. Know before you go.
- Keep a clean camp.
- Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.
- Cook downwind and as far from your tent as possible.
- Set up backcountry camps away from dense cover and natural food sources.

BearWise.org *Continued >>*

BearWise®

CREATED BY BEAR BIOLOGISTS, SUPPORTED BY STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES

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ASSOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

STASH & LATCH YOUR TRASH

KEEP BEARS WILD

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Stash & Latch Stickers & Signs

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