



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

Parks & Forests

Municipalities

Journalists, Media

BearWise® BULLETIN

Action Plan for Communities in Bear Country

Bears instinctively avoid people, but accessible garbage, backyard bird feeders, uncontrolled small livestock and other attractants can provide a hungry bear with more calories in just a few minutes than a day of foraging in the wild. Bears are drawn to neighborhoods and communities for easy, high caloric, low-risk interactions and conflicts inevitably result.

Good News: Implementing five simple long-term solutions will help prevent conflicts with bears.

Switch To Bear-Resistant Traps: From residential property to large commercial properties, numerous companies produce and approved to resist the most popular bear attractants. Studies show that requiring communities to use bear-resistant traps to catch bears instead of keeping bears out of the garbage, reduces all types of conflicts, including property damage and residents feel better.

To find more about bear resistant traps: BearWise.org/keep-bears-out

Garbage, bird feed and unsecured livestock are universal attractants.

BearWise Lodging SAFETY TIPS

How to Be a BearWise Host

- Provide BearWise materials before guests arrive and during their stay. Download materials at BearWise.org/Store.
- Post **Be BearWise Guest Checklist** (see next page) in common areas and in rooms.
- Remind guests to Be BearWise by posting room signs:
 - Keep food and drink in a sturdy, locked cabinet.
 - Don't leave food or cooked scatpounds in the trash, not "the woods."
 - If you allow pets, require leashes when dogs are outside; post the **Dogs + Bears = Trouble** poster, refer to checklist (next page) for more information.
 - Do tell guests about recent bear activity and any special precautions. Don't tell guests about local hot spots where bears can be seen or human-provided attractants.
- Educate Guests & Staff
- Provide BearWise materials before guests arrive and during their stay. Download materials at BearWise.org/Store.
- Post **Be BearWise Guest Checklist** (see next page) in common areas and in rooms.
- Remind guests to Be BearWise by posting room signs:
 - Keep food and drink in a sturdy, locked cabinet.
 - Don't leave food or cooked scatpounds in the trash, not "the woods."
 - If you allow pets, require leashes when dogs are outside; post the **Dogs + Bears = Trouble** poster, refer to checklist (next page) for more information.
 - Do tell guests about recent bear activity and any special precautions. Don't tell guests about local hot spots where bears can be seen or human-provided attractants.
- Don't Feed The Wildlife**
- Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to become accustomed to humans may result in a bear attack. **Attract Birds, Not Bears** for tips on going greener.
- Garbage, bird feed and unsecured livestock are universal attractants.**
- Attract Birds, Not Bears** for tips on going greener.
- Please don't put food to attract bears. You'll attract bears, moths, snakes and other unsavory critters.

BEAR SPRAY BASICS

BEARWISE OUTDOORS CARRY BEAR SPRAY & KNOW HOW TO USE IT

Never let unsecured trash sit outside.

Always latch / lock trash containers, even during the day. Use BearWise Latch & Latch stickers to remind guests.

Inspect the Property

Provide Bear-Resistant Containers

Where to Find BearWise: Ask your waste services provider, purchase your own, or return your containers (if you've had a bear break into service). Find more resources online at BearWise.org.

Other Options: BearWise trash inside an exterior fence. BearWise trash inside a sturdy, locked building. Encourage guests on how to access, so they don't leave trash outside.

Never let unsecured trash sit outside.

Always latch / lock trash containers, even during the day. Use BearWise Latch & Latch stickers to remind guests.

How to Use Bear Spray

- Release safety clip.
- Hold bear deterrent spray with both hands.
- Aim downward toward the bear's face.
- Spray a short burst (2-3 seconds) when the bear is 30 feet away.
- If the bear keeps approaching, spray again.

Bear spray is the safest, easiest, most effective way to deter an aggressive bear.

BEAR SPRAY SAVES LIVES

BEARWISE OUTDOORS CARRY BEAR SPRAY & KNOW HOW TO USE IT

Never let unsecured trash sit outside.

Always latch / lock trash containers, even during the day. Use BearWise Latch & Latch stickers to remind guests.

Inspect the Property

Provide Bear-Resistant Containers

Where to Find BearWise: Ask your waste services provider, purchase your own, or return your containers (if you've had a bear break into service). Find more resources online at BearWise.org.

Other Options: BearWise trash inside an exterior fence. BearWise trash inside a sturdy, locked building. Encourage guests on how to access, so they don't leave trash outside.

Never let unsecured trash sit outside.

Always latch / lock trash containers, even during the day. Use BearWise Latch & Latch stickers to remind guests.

How to Use Bear Spray

- Release safety clip.
- Hold bear deterrent spray with both hands.
- Aim downward toward the bear's face.
- Spray a short burst (2-3 seconds) when the bear is 30 feet away.
- If the bear keeps approaching, spray again.

Bear spray is the safest, easiest, most effective way to deter an aggressive bear.

BEAR SPRAY SAVES LIVES

Outdoor Safety Cards & Trifolds

Be BearWise AT HOME CHECKLIST

How BearWise Are You?

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 enclosure.
- Garbage is put out the morning of pick-up (not the night before).

Feeding Birds

- Birds/birdhouses/birds 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:

- Feeders and feeders are brought in at night.
- Fallen birdseed and leftover food is picked up daily before dark.

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; never leave a remaining area cleaned as soon as pets have eaten.
- If the food is stored in a sturdy, locked building or bear-resistant container.

Vehicles Parked Outside

- No food or anything with a fragrance is left in vehicles, cars, trucks or truck beds, including pet food, bird seed, food, beverages, insects, or trash.
- Vehicle windows are kept fully closed and doors locked.

Be BearWise:

- Keep a small trash bag in your vehicle and ready to use. Use bear deterrent spray. Roll up and lock up.

BearWise Outdoor Safety

Fishing & Hunting

Keep bear spray accessible at all times.

Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

If You Encounter a Black Bear

Camping

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE AND BEARS WILD

BACKCOUNTRY FOOD STORAGE & SAFETY TIPS

Watching a bear from a safe and respectful distance can be the highlight of your trip. Letting a bear take your food can ruin it.

BEARVAULT®



MORE >>

Free Fact Sheets TO DOWNLOAD

- Checklist: How BearWise Are You?
- Attract Birds, Not Bears
- Dogs + Bears = Problems
- Electric Fences Keep Bears Out
- Stash, Latch, Secure Your Trash
- Action Plan for Communities in Bear Country
- Raising Chickens in Bear Country
- Scare the Bear
- Dog Safety Poster
- Keep Chickens Safe Poster
- Backcountry Food Storage & Safety Tips
- Bear Encounters - Outdoors in Grizzly Country
- Lodging Safety Tips & Guest Checklist
- At-Home BearWise Basics*
- Outdoor BearWise Basics*
- Outdoor Safety Tips*
- Vacation Safety Tips*

*Also available in Spanish



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.



What Attracts Birds?

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 attract birds. Using native plants is a common way to attract birds. In addition to providing food, gardens provide food sources and shelter from predators and bad weather. An added benefit for people: native plants are easier to care for and are often easier to grow. Care for non-native plants. **TIP:** Avoid pesticides: many birds rely on insects for a big part of their diet.

BearWise® is used and supported by local wildlife agencies and BearWise.org

Grow Your Own

Surfboards, cornstarch, or the remains of colorful tubular flowers (especially bee balm) attract insects and pollinators. These insects make it easy for butterflies and pollinators to find nectar in your flowers.

Offer Shelter And Perches

Birds need places to perch and to hide from predators. Small branching trees and dense bushes provide perches and shelter. A colorful bird feeder, sculpture, or other decoration can also provide a friendly perch.

Get Dry Soil, Sand or Gravel?

How are two options? If your soil does not have enough moisture to conduct electricity, it's best to use a "hot" grounding rod. If your soil is very dry, you may need to add water to the test probe to complete the circuit. Or, if you set up a positive/negative system, with the top wire and ground wire all at "hot" (positive), a bear that tries to go over or under the fence will get shocked.

Calculate the length of all wires.

Wires need to be long enough to carry energy through all wires and any energized gates.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors. Clean and store grills. Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors. Clean and store grills. Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Never feed or approach bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Get an energizer that outputs at least 6,000+ volts.

Output jolts should be at least 0.5. The jolts rating tells you how many times the energizer will activate. Depending on your location and soil type, a lower pulse rating may work. Ask your state wildlife agency or a professional electrician for advice on what you are protecting. Got grizzlies? You'll need 6,700+ volts.

Keep the energizer out of a bear's reach.

Many people place the energizer inside the fence, with a cutoff switch.