



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

Free Checklists & Fact Sheets

BearWise® BULLETIN
#4

Action Plan for Communities in Bear Country

Bears instinctively avoid people, but accessible garbage, backyard bird feeders, unprotected 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. Once bears learn to rely on neighborhoods and communities for easy, high-calorie food, conflicts and interactions can become more frequent.

Good News: Implementing two proven long-term solutions will property and bears.

Switch to Bear-Resistant
From residential policies to large commercial products and approved to resist the most studies show that requiring bear-resistant containers (BRCs) keeping bears out of the garbage can yield a food reward, reduce all types of negative interaction, and makes residents feel more in control.

To find more info about bear-resistant containers, visit BearWise.org/keep-bears-out

BBQ Grills, Smokers

- Grill and/or smoker is stored inside when not in use. If not, it is covered.
- 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 look-out when you cook-out. Thoroughly clean grills and smokers.

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 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 truck beds, 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 >

BearWise® Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears

BEAR SPRAY BASICS

Buy only canisters labeled for BEARS.

Never use your own canister.

Carry in the same place every time.

Use a harness carrier so you can carry your canister.

Apply your bear spray and clip before every hike.

Nothing is more effective than bear spray. It is not a repellent.

Use in a cool, dry place (never in a vehicle).

Shelf life is 3 to 4 years.

BEARWISE

BEARWISE OUTDOORS

CARRY BEAR SPRAY & KNOW HOW TO USE IT

How To Use Bear Spray

1. Release safety clip.
2. Hold bear deterrent spray with both hands.
3. Aim downward toward the bear's face.
4. Spray a short burst (2-3 seconds) when the bear is 30 feet away.
5. 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

Outdoor Safety Cards & Trifolds

Be BearWise OUTDOORS

Backpack Tags

Never feed or approach bears.

Stay alert. Stay together.

Leave nothing behind, not even food scraps.

Keep dogs leashed.

Follow safe camping practices.

Carry bear spray. Know how to use it.

If you see a bear, back away slowly. Never run or climb a tree.

KEEP BEARS WILD

BearWise.org

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, including toiletries.
- Leaving scraps, wrappers or "thumbs" 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.
- Leaving scraps, wrappers or "thumbs" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.
- 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.

CAMPGROUND SAFETY

BearWise® Tips to Avoid Bear Encounters

WHAT ATTRACTS BEARS

- Food, Drinks, Condiments, ketchup, mustard, etc.
- Trash, Recycling containers, packaging, food scraps, etc.
- Coolers, even if empty
- Anything with a Scent including toiletries
- Never burn trash or food scraps in the fire ring or grill, or toss into the woods.

WHERE TO KEEP STUFF

- Locked Vehicle/RV, Cabin, or Hard-Sided Camper
- Close windows when not at your campsite.
- Storage Locker
- Bear-Resistant Dumpster, Container, or Cooler with approved locks
- No scents/odors in tents, including candles when cooking.

REPORT BEAR ENCOUNTERS AND UNDISCOVERED TRASH TO CAMP HOST

SAFELY ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

Stay alert and stay together. Always keep dogs leashed. Carry bear spray (if allowed). Make noise often so bears can avoid you. Leave nothing behind, not even food scraps.

IF YOU SEE A BEAR:

- Do not feed or approach.
- Never run or climb a tree.

BEARWISE

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE AND BEARS WILD

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.

BACKCOUNTRY

FOOD STORAGE & SAFETY TIPS

BEARWISE

BEARVAULT®

MORE >>>



BearWise Store

Thanks for being BearWise and keeping bears wild

Discounts available online. Questions? support@bearwise.org

BearWise.org



Printable Fact Sheets *Free Downloads*

- American Black Bear Brief
- Checklist: How BearWise Are You?
- Attract Birds, Not Bears
- Dogs + Bears = Trouble
- 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
- Campground Safety*
- Backcountry Food Storage & Safety Tips
- Bear Encounters - Outdoor Safety Tips
- Lodging Safety Tips & Guest Checklist
- At-Home BearWise Basics*
- Outdoor BearWise Basics*
- Outdoor Safety Tips*
- Vacation Safety Tips*

*Also available in Spanish



BearWise.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO...

Learn about black bears and how to prevent conflicts



Download free fact sheets and order BearWise stuff



SCARE THE BEAR



Why and How to Safely Haze a Bear

Bears typically avoid people whenever possible, but easy access to garbage, bird seed, pet food and other food sources can attract bears. **Scaring the bear can temporarily stop unwanted behavior and give you time to remove or secure attractants.**

- BearWise® Hazing Rules**
1. Never approach, corner or chase the bear.
 2. Stand in a safe place (bring kids and dogs inside).
 3. Be sure the bear has an escape route, away from you.
 4. Stop hazing when the bear runs away or climbs a tree.
 5. If the bear approaches, do not run. Use bear spray.
 6. BE CAREFUL. Any hazing is done at your own risk.

Safe Ways to Scare a Bear

Assert Your Dominance – Make eye contact with the bear. Wave your arms above your head to look bigger.

Make Noise – Shout a whistle, air horn or car horn. Clap your hands. Bang pots. Yell, shout, talk loudly – your voice is a powerful deterrent.

Shoot Paintballs (where legal) – Aim at the rear end of the bear, NOT the head. Never use bird shot, rock salt or BB guns; you can cause injury or death. Avoid red paintballs; camouflage that the bear is injured.

Use Motion-Activated Lights, Alarms and/or Water Sprinklers

Be BearWise

Learn How to Use Bear Spray: BearWise.org/bear-safety-tips-bear-spray/

Keep Bears from Coming Back

Use the How BearWise Are You? Checklist. Remove / secure everything that attracts bears. Alert neighbors to bear activity.

Door Hangers



Stickers, Magnets Whistles



What's wrong with this picture?

Can you find 11 things that will attract hungry, curious bears?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

ANSWERS ON THE BACK SIDE



Fun Stuff for Kids

Coasters



Stash & Latch Stickers & Signs

BearWise.org

