



How to Be a BearWise Guest



Welcome to Bear Country

Black bears are curious, smart, resourceful and always looking for food. While seldom aggressive, black bears are powerful, unpredictable wild animals. Follow these BearWise guidelines to help keep people, pets and property safe, and bears wild.

Stash & Latch Trash



- Put all trash, food scraps and recycling in containers or enclosures provided.
- Make sure containers are **completely** closed and locked.
- Take trash with you if containers are full; don't leave it on the ground.
- Never store trash in a vehicle or on porch/deck/upper-level balcony.

Discourage Break-ins



- Keep exterior building doors closed, even when you are there. Lock doors at night.
- When you leave during the day, lock all windows and doors. Screens don't keep out bears.
- Lock vehicles; don't leave windows open even a crack. Remove anything with an odor (food, drinks, trash, scented products).
- Never store food, beverages, pet food, coolers on porches/decks.

Don't Feed Bears



- Feeding bears or using food to encourage bears to approach you is always dangerous and often illegal.
- Don't put out food to attract birds or small wildlife. You will attract bears, skunks and other critters.
- Throw food scraps into the trash, not "the woods." Even "harmless" scraps like apple cores teach bears to associate people with food.

Keep a Lookout During Cookouts



- Keep food and coolers within arm's reach; never leave unattended, even for a few minutes.
- Clean picnic tables after every meal. Remove all condiments and food.
- Store grill utensils inside and clean grill after every use.
- Never burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.

If You Encounter a Bear



- If a bear comes near your place, scare it away by making noise from a safe distance: yell, clap hands, bang pots together, use an air horn.
- Never try to get closer for a photo.
- Don't corner a bear; give it an escape route. Alert your host.

Outdoor Safety



- Hike in groups and stay together, especially kids.
- If you see a bear, watch quietly from a safe distance (at least 50 yards or 10 car lengths for black bears; 100 yards for grizzlies). Never approach.
- Never run from a bear. Carry bear spray (if permitted) and know how to use it. Learn more at BearWise.org.
- Be aware that bears are good swimmers and may enjoy the water, even with people around.

Traveling with Dogs?



- Keep dogs on non-retractable leashes at all times, or leave them at home. Don't force a bear to defend itself.
- Don't let dogs bark at, harass, chase or corner a bear.
- Keep pet food in your room/cabin. Feed dogs inside, if possible. Never leave food/water bowls outside.
- If your dog gets into an encounter with a bear, don't try to rescue it. You will get injured. Use bear spray; it works from 30 feet away.

Ask your host if bears have been active in the area. Follow any recommended special precautions and local regulations.

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

