



BearWise Outdoor Safety Tips

Hiking



- 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.
- Double bag your food and pack out all food and trash.

Leaving scraps, wrappers or even "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.

Camping



- Keep a clean camp.
- Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.
- **Do not store food, trash, clothes worn 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.
- In the backcountry, set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources.
- Cook at least 100 yards from your tent, downwind if possible.

Hunting & Fishing



Hunters and anglers are more likely to encounter bears because they move quietly and travel during early morning and late evening hours when bears are most active.

- Follow tips for hiking and camping safely.
- Know that carcasses, gut piles, and bait may attract bears.
- If a bear beats you to your catch or kill, don't try to reclaim it; leave the area when it is safe to do so.



Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

Keep bear spray accessible; it's proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work like bug repellent, so **never** spray your tent, campsite or belongings.

If You Encounter a Bear

Black bears are seldom aggressive and attacks are rare.



- **If you see a bear before it notices you:** stand still, don't approach and enjoy the moment. Then move away quietly in the opposite direction.
- **If you encounter a bear that's aware of you:** don't run; running may trigger a chase response. Back away slowly in the opposite direction and wait for the bear to leave.

Visit BearWise.org/bear-safety-tips/ to learn what to do if a black bear approaches, charges or follows you.

Precautions for Dog Walkers, Cyclists and Joggers



- **Keep dogs leashed.** Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don't force a bear to defend itself.
- **Leave earbuds at home.** Cyclists and joggers traveling quickly and quietly can easily surprise bears. Be aware of your surroundings and make noise periodically.



*Helping People
Live Responsibly with Black Bears*



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