

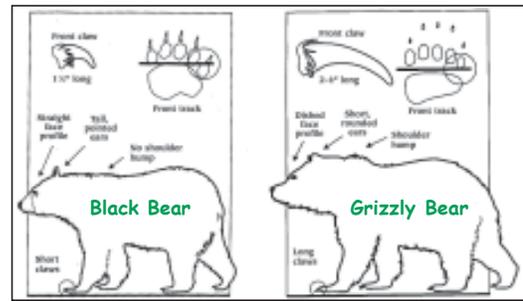
HOW DO I TELL A GRIZZLY BEAR FROM A BLACK BEAR?

In most instances, you can avoid problems with either black bears or grizzly bears in the same way. However, since grizzlies are more rare and can be more aggressive it is important to be able to identify each species.

Grizzlies are distinguished by their dished face, prominent shoulder hump, and long claws on their front feet. In summer, adult males weigh about 400-500 pounds and females about 250-350 pounds. Grizzlies typically measure 3-4 feet tall at the shoulder when on all four feet, and 6-8 feet tall standing upright. A well-fed male black bear may be the same size as a female grizzly.

Color is generally not a good way to distinguish between the species. A grizzly's fur is often brown, tipped with blond for a 'grizzled' or silver-tipped appearance. A grizzly can be very blond or almost black. Black bears are often black, but brown or cinnamon-colored individuals can be mistaken for grizzlies.

Learn more about how to distinguish between species at: www.fwp.state.mt.us/bearid. 



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Tracks and Sign: Claws of adult grizzlies are rarely less than 1 1/4" long. Claws of black bears seldom exceed 1 1/2". On grizzly tracks you can draw a line between the toe marks and the pad without overlapping the pad.

BEAR FACTS

-  There are eight species of bears in the world; three species occur in North America (polar, brown or grizzly, and black bears).
-  There is one species of brown/grizzly bear in the world (*Ursus arctos*). This species is called the "grizzly" bear in interior areas of North America, while in Asia and Europe and coastal areas of North America it is called the "brown bear". In North America, brown/grizzly bears are typically larger and darker in color in coastal areas.
-  Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) occur only in North America and are most common in mountainous or forested habitats. Black bears may be black, brown, cinnamon, grey, and—even— pure white.
-  A bear's natural diet is plants, fruits, and roots supplemented, where available, by fish, insects, carrion, deer fawns, and calves of elk or moose. Bears need to eat readily-digestible and high-quality foods.
-  In the fall, pregnant females enter dens first and—in the spring with their newborn cubs—are

the last to leave their dens. Males enter dens later and exit earlier. Black bears occupy dens longer than grizzly bears.

-  Bears breed in the spring (typically June) but give birth (January-February) and nurse their cubs during hibernation in dens.
-  Bears are lighter sleepers than other hibernators such as ground squirrels or bats and can be easily awoken. During the denning period (5-6 months,) bears don't eat, drink, or eliminate waste.
-  Bears usually have litters of 1 to 4 cubs; the average litter size is 2.
-  Black bear cubs typically stay with their mothers for 1.5 years and grizzly cubs for 2.5 years. Only mother bears care for the cubs. Grizzlies have one of the lowest reproductive rates among North American land mammals.
-  All bears have good vision and will sometimes stand on their hind legs to obtain a better view of something that interests or concerns them. Bears have an excellent sense of smell. They can run considerably faster than a human and are very good swimmers.

-  South of Canada, grizzlies have been eliminated from 98% of their former range during the last 150 years. Grizzlies remain abundant in Alaska and in some parts of Canada.
-  Bear cubs have high mortality rates from accidents, starvation and death caused by attacks from other bears (commonly males).
-  Bears are not very social. Except for a female with cubs, they are found in groups only where food is concentrated (e.g. salmon streams, berry patches, garbage dumps, etc.) and during the breeding season.
-  Male grizzlies roam the most, using areas from 600-1000 square miles while females use areas of about 100 square miles. Homes ranges of black bears are 15-50 square miles for males and 5-15 for females.
-  Grizzlies once inhabited the open plains and valleys, in addition to mountain ranges, but as humans have occupied these areas grizzlies are now found primarily in the more remote and mountainous portions of their former range.



Management

Grizzlies are cooperatively managed by state wildlife management agencies, federal agencies, and Indian Tribes in Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Black bears are managed by the states and tribes.

To Report Problems With Bears

IDAHO
Idaho Dept. of Game and Fish
Bonners Ferry Office208-267-3115
Coeur d'Alene Office208-769-1414
Lewiston Office208-799-5010

MONTANA
Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Choteau Office406-466-5100
Hamilton Office406-375-2273 or 9106
Kalispell Office406-752-5501
Libby Office406-293-4161
Missoula Office406-542-5500

Lincoln County (NW MT)
Sheriff's Office406-293-4112
Sanders County (NW MT)
Sheriff's Office406-827-3584

WASHINGTON
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
(9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Monday-Friday)
Spokane Office509-892-1001
For Emergencies call Washington State
Patrol509-456-4101

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND
KOOTENAI TRIBES**406-675-2700
BLACKFEET TRIBE406-338-7207
or Law Enforcement406-338-4000

For More Information, Visit

www.bearbiology.net
www.bebearaware.org
www.bearinfo.org
www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc
www.lwwf.org
www.unbearablebins.com



Design and Layout by the
National Wildlife Federation



BEARS: Pointers for Peaceful Coexistence

Learning to live with bears!



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Prepared by State and Federal wildlife management agencies, National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Yellowstone To Yukon, Plum Creek Timber, Bear Trust International, Sierra Club, Rock Creek Alliance, Pyramid Lumber Company and National Forest Foundation

BEAR ENCOUNTERS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD . . .

Bears will eat whatever humans and their pets eat, as well as additional things like grass and clover. During the non-denning period bears are very anxious to fill their bellies with just about anything edible as they need fat reserves to see them through the next winter's denning period. They may be especially hungry early in the spring and before denning in the fall.

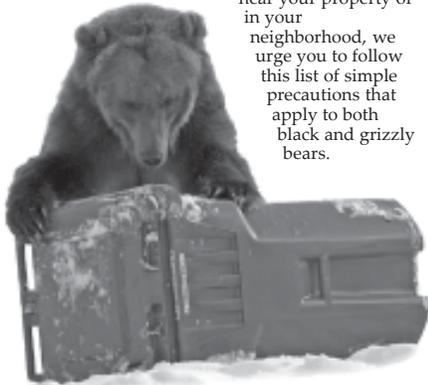
Given a choice, bears will eat the richest food available. Unfortunately, the richest food is often human garbage and pet or livestock feed. Most encounters with bears that cause problems result from bears being attracted to such non-natural foods.



The first time you see a bear around your home or garbage container you may consider it as a photo opportunity. However, unless you do something to keep the bear from becoming used to eating your leftovers, your neglect may result in the bear's death. An initially

photogenic bear may become a nuisance, leaving authorities no choice but to kill it. A bear's attraction to non-natural foods can't be changed but the way you deal with it can be modified to save bears and avoid damage to your property.

To reduce the risk of problems with bears on or near your property or in your neighborhood, we urge you to follow this list of simple precautions that apply to both black and grizzly bears.



Grizzly bear unsuccessfully trying to open a bear-resistant, residential garbage can. © Derek Reich

- ▶ Avoid attracting bears to your property. Prevention is far better and easier than a cure!
- ▶ Store garbage where bears can't smell or get into it. Use bear-resistant containers, secure buildings or other places a bear can't get into.

- Use garbage cans stored outside only for non-food items.
- Put your garbage out for collection as close as possible to the time the truck will arrive and never the night before.

- If you do not have curbside pickup, haul garbage to an approved disposal site as often as possible but at least once a week to avoid buildup of odors.

- ▶ Bears are attracted to gardens and fruit trees. Electric fencing is the most effective way to keep bears out of orchards and gardens. Pick all ripe produce as soon as possible.



- ▶ Organize your neighborhood to be sure everyone is following proper procedures. If your neighbors are feeding bears, they are causing problems for you as well as for themselves.

- ▶ Bears love hummingbird nectar, birdseed, and woodpecker suet. It is best to feed birds only during winter, when bears are asleep. If you must, at least don't feed birds if bears are around. Birdfeeders should be hung at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk or pole.



- ▶ Talk with your children about bears, mountain lions, and other potentially dangerous wildlife. Teach them what to do if they encounter these animals (retreat slowly but don't run away from bears or mountain lions).



- ▶ Do not leave food unattended, particularly at night. Clean your barbecue grill as soon as you are finished cooking and store it inside a secure building.

- ▶ Beehives with honey are extremely attractive to bears, they must be fenced. Electric fences work well if properly designed, installed and maintained.



- ▶ If you have a compost pile that includes food scraps, use an electric fence to discourage bears. Don't put meat, grease, or bones in a compost pile. Mix and aerate the pile regularly to accelerate decomposition.

- ▶ Don't leave uneaten pet food outside. Feed your dog or cat indoors, during the day, and only as much as they will immediately eat.



- ▶ Choose landscaping and ground cover that won't attract bears. Avoid bushes and trees with fruits or grasses mixed with clover. Snow crabapples, for example, don't produce fruit.

- ▶ Don't approach bears to get a better view or photos—keep a safe distance away (at least 100 yards for grizzlies).



- ▶ Intentional feeding of bears is not only dangerous to yourself and the bear, but also is illegal in most places.

- ▶ Don't use guns in an effort to frighten bears. Guns are likely to be far more dangerous to you and your neighbors than bears. Keep a can of EPA-approved bear pepper spray handy in case of emergency and know how to use it.



- ▶ When not using your summer cabin, don't store smelly foods inside and put secure shutters on the windows to deter bear break-ins.

- ▶ Food for livestock (pellets, grain, chicken feed, etc.) will attract bears. Store in secure containers and feed animals from a bucket or tub so that excess food can be removed. If you have poultry (or other livestock) that bears may kill, keep them in a securely fenced area (electric fences work well).



ENCOUNTERS WITH BEARS IN WILD PLACES . . .

Seeing a bear while hiking, camping, fishing, riding, or other remote-area activities should enrich your backcountry experience. Follow simple and common-sense precautions when you are in the bears' home. On national forests, consult the local Forest Service office for food storage rules that may be in effect.



HIKERS: In areas where you may encounter a grizzly, make lots of noise (talking, singing, etc.) Hike in groups if you can. Let bears know you are in the area and are a human. Be especially

cautious in grizzly bear feeding areas, like berry patches or where you see signs of bear activity, such as tracks, scat, or digging. Try to stay in open areas with good visibility. An animal carcass covered with vegetation with magpies or ravens nearby may signal a food cache—stay far away! All hikers in grizzly country should carry a readily-accessible can of EPA-approved bear pepper spray and know how to use it. If you encounter a grizzly, clap your hands and shout to alert the bear and move off the trail and away from the bear. For grizzlies, don't make threatening gestures or actions like throwing things and don't try to stare the bear down. Never run away from any large predator as this may trigger a chase response. Be sure dogs are on a leash in bear country. Most importantly, for both species of bear, don't try to sneak up to get a close-up photo—keep at least 100 yards from grizzly bears.



CAMPERS AND ANGLERS: Obey posted rules for your camping area. Camp away from areas where you see

bear sign. Keep a clean camp. Hang all food, trash, and other smelly items 100 yards from camp and at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from any vertical support, or store them in a bear-resistant container (commercial coolers are not bear-resistant). If you have no better option, store food in your vehicle. Don't burn food scraps in your fire. Stock feed should be treated the same as human food. Keep tents and sleeping bags free of odors and don't keep any food in your tent. Don't sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking, eating, or cleaning fish. Don't leave fish entrails on shorelines of lakes or streams—sink them in deep water. Report aggressive bears to authorities.



HUNTERS: Follow the above guidelines. If you kill a game animal, get it out of the field as soon as possible. Separate gut piles and meat by at least 100 yards. Gut piles can be slid on a piece of plastic. If you must leave the

carcass, hang it at least 10 feet above the ground. Especially in grizzly country, leave the carcass where you can see it from a distance when you return. A battery-operated noise-maker with a motion sensor ("crittergitter") may scare a bear away from your kill when you are gone. Noises like elk bugles, cow calls, antler clacking, and fawn squeals, as well as game scents may attract bears. If a bear has claimed the carcass, leave the area and report the incident to Forest Service or state agency biologists. If you

hunt black bears, be sure you learn how to tell the difference between black bears and grizzlies.



ATTACKS: Unless they've become accustomed to getting food or garbage from people, black bears and grizzly bears will usually avoid people. They attack people very rarely. When grizzly bears attack, it is usually because

they were surprised or felt threatened. If a grizzly attacks you, let it know you are no threat by playing dead and covering your head and neck with your arms and backpack. Black bear attacks are very rare and may occur because the bear thinks you are prey. Fight a black bear attack with sticks, stones, fists and feet and whatever else is available (don't play dead).



Grizzly bear unable to open a bear-resistant dumpster in a public campground. © Derek Reich