

BEAR MANAGEMENT

To prevent and decrease unwanted bear behaviour, your local office will:

EDUCATE

- Teach homeowners about bear behaviour.

PREVENT

- Advise on removing attractants.
- Evaluate waste management.
- Suggest methods to change bear behaviour:
 - Electric fencing.
 - Light and noise deterrents.

HAZE (If necessary to move a bear away from an area)

- Technicians can use noisy flares or impact devices.

TRAP AND RELOCATE

Only for very few situations because:

- Bears can return, especially if attractants remain.
- Bears may cause conflict in new area.
- Bear welfare concerns in new area include:
 - Not enough food, shelter and water.
 - Conflict with other bears.
 - Dies trying to return to capture area (e.g. vehicle collisions).

HUMANE DESTRUCTION

- A bear may be killed if:
 - Other actions are unsuccessful.
 - The bear is a public safety risk.
- Meat may be donated to Feed NS if appropriate.

Early intervention improves outcomes!

Report bear sightings in your neighbourhood to your local Department office:

NovaScotia.ca/Natr/Staffdir/Offices.asp
After hours, call 1-800-565-2224

WHAT ATTRACTS BEARS	WHAT TO DO
Purposeful feeding	Do not feed wildlife!
Green and Garbage bins	Clean after pickup with warm, soapy water.
	Only place at curb on morning of pickup.
	Freeze strong smelling food until morning of pickup.
	Prevent access from wildlife: • Store in bear resistant building or attached to solid object. • Secure lids.
Bird Feeders	Do not use bird feeders in bear season (April-October).
	Offer birds natural alternatives: • Flowers • Nesting boxes • Fresh water
Pets	Keep dogs on leash when not in a fenced yard. • Dogs can cause defensive bear attacks on people.
	Check yard for bear presence before letting dogs out.
	Do not leave pet food outside, in screened-in areas or porches.
Fruit Trees and Berry Bushes	Pick all ripe and fallen fruit and berries.
Barbecues	Burn off grill at high temperature after every use.
	Clean often.
	Empty grease trap every time.

Work with your neighbours to manage bear attractants and keep neighbourhoods and bears safe!



Read on to learn how to prevent and respond to bear encounters.

Let's work together to keep humans and bears safe!

BEAR FACTS

Bears' entire lives revolve around food. Their survival depends on it!

- Bears **LIVE** throughout Nova Scotia, including residential communities.
- Bears **EAT** mostly plant material, but will also eat insects, meat, and fish.
- If bears **GET FOOD** where people live, they will keep returning.
- Bears **GET USED** to humans if the food reward outweighs the risks.



IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BLACK BEAR

Stop.
Do not panic.
Remain calm.

DO

- Slowly back away while keeping the bear in sight. Go back the way you came or wait for the bear to leave.
- Get inside a nearby vehicle or building if available.
- Provide an escape route for the bear.
- If the bear is in a tree, leave it alone.

DO NOT

- Run, climb a tree or swim.
- Kneel down.
- Make direct eye contact.
- Approach the bear.
- Feed the bear.
- Let your dog off leash.
 - Dogs can cause defensive bear attacks on people.
- Take a selfie.

Black bears very rarely approach people and extremely rarely attack people HOWEVER...

IF A BEAR APPROACHES

- Stand your ground.
- Act big and intimidating.
- Throw objects, wave arms, and make noise.

IF A BEAR ATTACKS

- Fight back.
- Do not play dead unless you are sure the attacking bear is a mother defending her cubs.

To find out more, visit

NovaScotia.ca/Natr/Wildlife/Bears