

YOU ARE CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY



Massachusetts is home to black bears.

Black bears are commonly found in western and central Massachusetts and the population is growing and moving eastward. Black bears will visit RV parks and campgrounds during the camping season in search of food. If they find food, bears will return more often and can become a danger to people. Your actions have a direct impact on bear behavior. Do your part to keep your campsite clean and keep bears wild.

**Never intentionally
feed wildlife**

**Secure all food and never
store or eat food in tents**

**Close and lock RV and vehicle
doors and windows**

**Stash trash out of sight, smell,
and reach of bears**



**See reverse to learn how you can prevent bear
problems at campgrounds and RV parks.**

Get more tips at mass.gov/bears.



TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT BEAR PROBLEMS

NEVER FEED BEARS

- Intentional feeding can cause bears and other wildlife to lose their fear of people. When this happens, bears can become a threat to human safety and may need to be euthanized.
- Bird feeders attract bears. There is no safe time of year or day to have bird feeders out.

DISCOURAGE BREAK-INS

- Bears will break into vehicles or through a screen door to access food they can smell or see.
- When you leave, lock doors and windows to RVs, vehicles, and cabins. Always keep exterior doors to RVs and cabins closed, even when you're there.

SECURE FOOD AND TRASH

- Stash your trash and recyclables in your RV or put it in the dumpster. Do not leave garbage outside. Use bear-resistant waste containers and dumpsters when available.
- Store food and beverages in bear-resistant containers in a place where bears cannot see, smell, or reach.
- Clean up picnic tables immediately after use. Never leave food unattended.
- Never store or eat food in bunks or tents.
- Don't throw food scraps or trash into your campfire or into the woods near your site. Even "harmless" items, like apple cores, teach bears to find food near RVs and camps.
- Greasy grills attract bears. Burn off food on the grill and cover the grill after each use. Clean or remove the grease pan and do not dump drippings outdoors.

LEASH AND SUPERVISE PETS OUTDOORS

- Keep dogs leashed whenever they're outdoors.
- Never let dogs chase or interact with bears. The presence of a dog could trigger a bear to be aggressive.
- Feed your pet indoors or clean up after outdoor feeding.

IF YOU SEE A BLACK BEAR AT YOUR SITE

- Bears are usually wary of humans, but they can become less cautious when they repeatedly find food around people. If you see signs of bear activity, check and remove food sources.
- If a bear approaches your site, try to scare it away by making loud noises and waving your arms from a distance. Do not turn and run.
- If a black bear makes contact with you, fight back aggressively. Use rocks, sticks, or anything you can to defend yourself.
- If you're concerned about the presence of bears, carry bear spray and learn how to safely use it.

Learn more at mass.gov/bears