








Be Bear Aware

Black bears in New England come out of hibernation as the weather warms and can be found in and around Stowe throughout spring, summer and fall.

It's exciting to see a black bear, but to the unfamiliar, it can also be intimidating. They feel the same way! To keep everyone safe, please follow these simple guidelines:

A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear

-  Black bears have a natural fear of humans and will attempt to avoid people and developed areas—fed bears do not.
-  Black bears rely on berries, ants, roots, grubs, fish and other live prey for proper nutrition. Fed bears will abandon these vital food sources for human foods and garbage.
-  Fed bears quickly become conditioned to food handouts and will teach their cubs to approach people to get these inappropriate food rewards.
-  Black bears fed along roads tend to stay near roads, increasing the number of vehicle-animal accidents.
-  Fed black bears will eat garbage including bottle caps, glass, aluminum foil, and other related items that can be harmful to their mouth, throat, and digestive system.

Bear Awareness Tips

- ✓ Minimize odors and the availability of food rewards throughout your yard and community.
- ✓ Put garbage out on the day of pick up, not the night before. Store attractants in a sturdy building or place in an approved bear-resistant trash receptacle. Feed pets inside.
- ✓ Take feeders down between April and November when natural seed and nectar are available.
- ✓ Keep barbecues clean.
- ✓ Vegetable gardens, compost piles, orchards, and beehives may attract bears. Use electric fences to keep bears out.
- ✓ Place children's play areas close to your house with viewable space around them and away from brush or forested areas.
- ✓ If a bear enters your home, leave immediately. If you can't get to an exit, go to the nearest room where you can shut the door securely. Call for assistance from the police or fire department. When help arrives, open doors and windows to provide the bear with as many exits as possible.

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