

Did you know?
Black Bears...

- Are the second largest mammal in Wisconsin, after elk. Adult male black bears weigh 250–350 pounds, females 120–180 pounds.
- Can run over 30 miles per hour and are excellent tree climbers.
- Are omnivorous and eat almost anything. They prefer vegetation, insects, berries and nuts, but will also eat carrion and small animals.
- Do not eat, drink, urinate or defecate during their winter den sleep; however, they are not true hibernators.
- Are naturally shy animals and rarely injure humans.

**If there is a nuisance bear in your area
call USDA Wildlife Services**

Northern Wisconsin

1-800-228-1368 (in state)

715-369-5221 (out of state and cell phones)

Southern Wisconsin

1-800-433-0663 (in state)

920-324-4514 (out of state and cell phones)



**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
TO
BLACK BEARS
IN
WISCONSIN**



Photo: Emery Orlikowski

*Tips to help you enjoy
black bears in Wisconsin
and avoid conflicts*

NEVER feed a bear!

Feeding bears habituates them to people and may cause the bear to become a nuisance in the area. It is also illegal in Wisconsin.

When you are camping

- Don't cook, eat, or store food in or near your tent.
- Keep food, cooking utensils, and food scraps in a hard-topped vehicle. If backcountry camping, hang items in a tree at least 10' off the ground and 5' out on a limb that will not support a bear.
- Other aromatic items such as toothpaste, soap, lotion and deodorants can also attract bears. Treat these items as you would food.

When you are hiking

- Try to hike in groups of at least two people.
- Avoid startling a bear by making plenty of noise and hiking during daylight hours.
- Keep pets leashed.

If you encounter a black bear

- Do not approach the bear.
- Make noise to make the bear aware of you.
- Back away slowly and move to a safe structure or area. Do not run!
- Black bears normally avoid people if encountered. Always leave them an escape route.



Respect black bears

as wild animals.
View them safely from a distance.

At your home

- Keep garbage cans tightly closed and indoors if possible.
- Occasionally clean out your garbage cans with ammonia to make them less attractive to bears.
- Bring any pet food inside at night.
- Clean up outdoor grills after use.
- Keep your yard clean of all food scraps.
- Use care with bird feeders; they can be very attractive to bears.

If you live in prime bear country, you should consider not feeding birds while bears are active (April-November).

If you have a bear visiting your bird feeder, take it down for at least two weeks and clean up any birdseed on the ground. If you decide to replace the feeder, make it inaccessible to bears by hanging it in a tree at least 10' off the ground and 5' out on a limb that will not support a bear.

