

BEARS: BLACK BEARS



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

Black bears are naturally wary of humans and expend a lot of energy attempting to avoid us. For a black bear, a tree is a safe place, making the forest their idyllic habitat. Black bear sightings are fairly common, encounters less so.

SIGNS OF BEAR ACTIVITY

When you're in the forest, look out for:

- Scat
- Tracks
- Shredded logs
- Disturbed ground
- Tree markings/fur on tree
- Natural bear foods, i.e. berry producing plants

Your voice is a very effective tool when you're in the forest. Black bears are smart and recognize human sounds. Make noise on the trails with your voice to warn black bears that people are around. Stay on the main trail. Respect their space and leave no trace.

IF YOU MEET A BEAR

Take a deep breath. Stay calm

Speak calmly to the bear

Back away slowly. Let the bear know you aren't a threat



WHAT BLACK BEARS EAT

Black bears are omnivores, though their diet is mostly vegetation: dandelions, clover, skunk cabbage; berries: salmonberries, salal berries, blackberries; and insects: grubs, caterpillars, moths.

Black bears don't understand boundaries. They will search extensively for food, led by noses two thousand times more sensitive than ours. It is normal to see black bears in our North Shore neighbourhoods, but make sure you don't invite them to stay by giving them a food reward.

- Secure garbage/don't put at curbside until morning of collection
- Freeze odorous organics. Keep garbage cans clean, wrap organics in newspaper
- Prune fruit trees/collect fallen fruit
- Take down bird feeders, esp. Apr-Nov
- Feed your pets indoors
- Keep BBQ clean
- Add shredded newspaper or dead leaves to compost to reduce odour



Den, Nov-Apr
producing cubs in
Jan



Cubs of the year
emerge May.
Yearlings leave their
mother, June



Search for a mate
July. Mothers teach
cubs how to forage



Active eating to
prepare for
hibernation Sept-Nov

**RELOCATION ISN'T AN OPTION
LIKE US, BEARS HAVE A HOME
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.NORTHSHOREBEARS.COM**