

Bears in Whistler



Managing attractants

There are many actions that you can take to protect bears. Bears form habits very quickly and once they learn to access non-natural food sources they will continue to return. This can lead to human-bear conflicts and property damage. Ensure that you keep all garbage stored securely inside until you can deposit it in a bear-proof container. Do not leave garbage, groceries or take out wrappers in your car. Bears have a very good sense of smell and cars are not bear proof. Dirty BBQs can attract bears, clean BBQ and empty grease trap after every use. If you see a bear in a residential area call the Conservation Officer Service at 604-905-BEAR, so they can shepherd the bear back into the wild.

If you encounter a bear

Remain calm, do not approach the bear and do not run. You should always maintain at least 100 m between you and a bear (approximately 7 school busses) and you should never try to get closer for a photograph. If you encounter a bear at close range, talk in a calm voice and back away. Always keep your dog on a leash as dogs can provoke dangerous and defensive behavior in bears. Learn more about how to deal with a bear encounter at whistler.ca/bears.

Bear smart tips

- Never feed a bear, either intentionally or unintentionally. All garbage must be disposed of in bear-proof containers. In Whistler, it is the law! Bear-proof containers are located throughout the Village, municipal parks and the valley trail.
- Be careful when driving in and around Whistler. Unfortunately, many bears are hit and injured or killed on roads. Do not pull over to view bears as it negatively impacts their feeding habits and creates dangerous driving conditions.
- Travel in groups while hiking and make lots of noise to avoid surprising a bear. Be alert and carry bear spray while hiking.

Report bear sightings in residential areas by calling the BC Conservation Officer Service (COS) at 604-905-BEAR or 1-877-952-7277

