

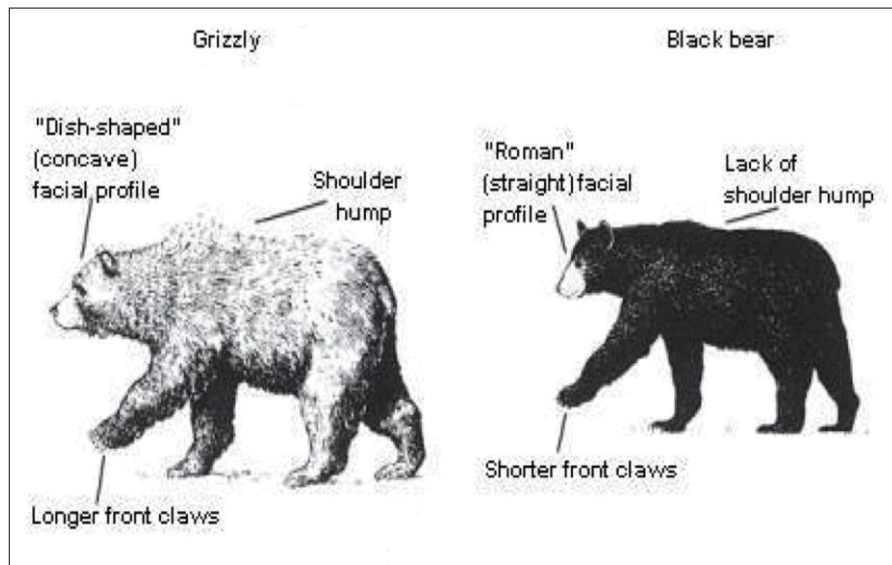


Black bear sign, Identifying Damage and Conflict Prevention



Black bears can have black, brown, reddish brown, cinnamon or white coats.

Black bears are currently the only bear found in Utah.



Tracks:

Bears have five toes. A black bear's front paw claws are short but can be visible in the track. Tracks may be 5 inches to 7 inches long.



Scat:

The scat varies based on what the bear is eating at a particular time of year. It may be full of insect parts, hair, bone or seeds and grasses.



Other Sign:

Look for flipped rocks or shredded logs where a bear has been searching for grubs and insects. Bears will sometimes strip the bark off trees. Look for claw marks or clumps of hair on the bark of trees.



Photos: Stephanie Jochum-Natt



Photos USGS and ICWDM &USDA WS

Black bear Damage:

Black bears may cause damage to property in their search for food and shelter. Damage can range from trampling gardens, tearing up grass or compost piles, destroying beehives, foraging in garbage cans or dumpsters, tearing down birdfeeders, breaking into cabins or campsites and food caches.



Avoid Conflicts

Remove attractants first:

Unsecured trash, birdfeeders, hummingbird feeders, unfenced fruit trees, gardens, compost piles or bee hives. Pet food and water bowls, unsupervised pets, (especially at night), barbeque grills, uncleaned utensils or dishes, unsecured food, coolers or camp boxes. Highly scented bath products, sunscreen, lotions and toothpaste. Bears have an incredible sense of smell. If they think they smell a food source they will investigate.

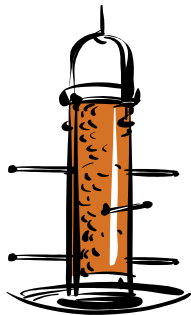


Photo: NPS

Do not leave food out to deliberately attract bears or other animals.



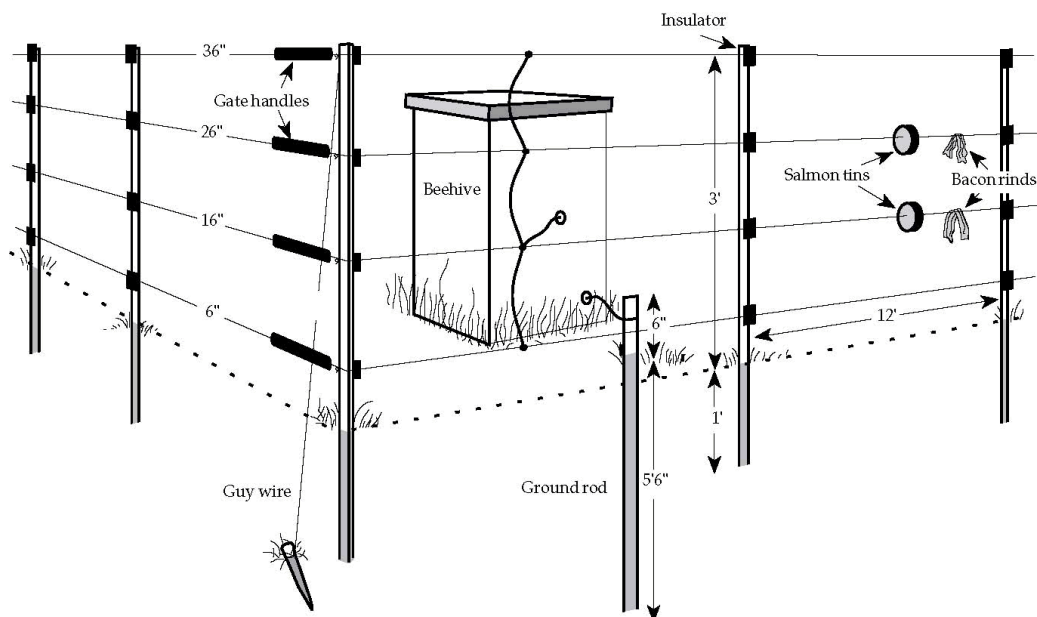
Below are some images of bear deterrents.

Bear “unwelcome mats” are wood planks with protruding screws or nails. Place under windows or in doorways. Install electric fencing around gardens, beehives, etc.



Black bears can be frightened away from backyards, orchards etc. by the use of motion sensor lights, strobe lights, loud music or sounds, scarecrows or dogs. The position of frightening devices and lights should be moved frequently.

Note: Some of these techniques may not be suitable for urban areas. Always check with local authorities to ensure that you are using a legal deterrent.



Electric fence around beehives: Scott E. Hygnstrom Extension Wildlife Damage Specialist School of Natural Resources University of Nebraska-Lincoln (icwmd.org)



Carry Bear spray when recreating and learn how to use it properly.

Visit: <http://www.centerforwildlifeinformation.org>

Bear proof dumpsters and garbage cans:

These can be built at home or purchased from numerous companies online.



Bear proof food storage containers: These can be purchased at outdoor recreation stores or rented online. Bear-proof lockers are provided at some parks and campsites. Please use these lockers or dumpsters when provided.



Bear Vault



NO-FED-BEAR



Bear proof locker National Park Service

Bear Vault®

Bear safe camping: Keep a clean, odor-free camp and picnic site. Set up the cooking and eating area and keep food, trash and scented toiletries 100 yards from the sleeping area.

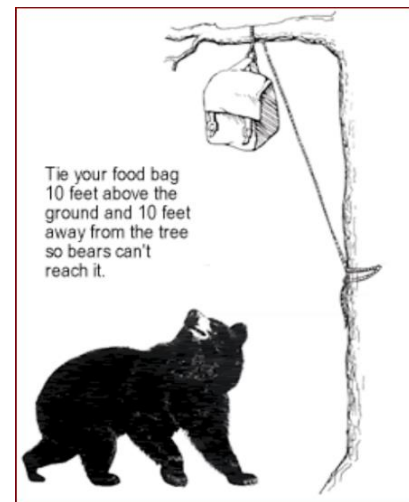
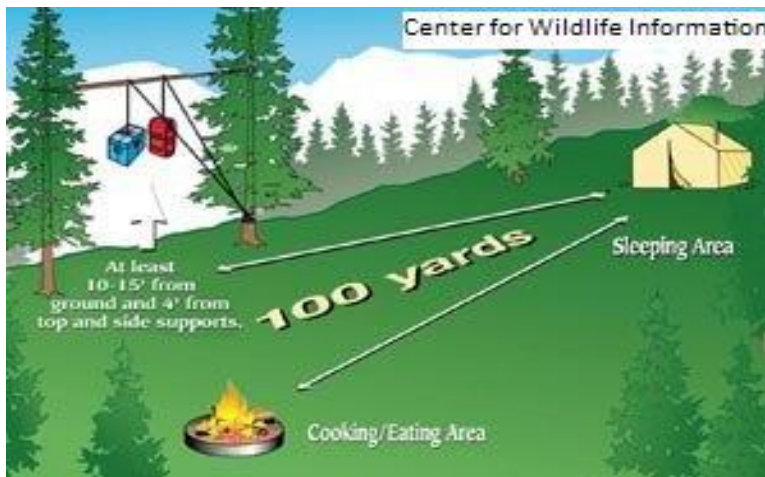


Photo: Stephanie Jochum-Natt

Do not store food, or toiletries inside your tent.



Clean campsite



Wildlife are attracted to smell –don't give them a reason to visit

Photos credit to Alberta Bear Smart , Government of Alberta and Parks Canada

If you see a bear in a residential area or you encounter an aggressive bear, please contact the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources immediately. If the encounter occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call your local police department or county sheriff's office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

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