

TAKE ACTION TO COEXIST WITH BLACK BEARS IN MASSACHUSETTS



Never intentionally feed bears

Intentional feeding can cause a bear to lose their fear of people. This can lead to a bear becoming a threat to human safety and needing to be euthanized. Keep bears wild by never intentionally feeding wildlife.



Remove bird feeders

Bird seed, suet, and spilled seed attract bears. Bird feeders draw bears closer to people, causing them to lose their fear of people. There is no safe time of year or day to have bird feeders out. Attract birds naturally by growing native plants.



Protect chickens, bees, and livestock

A standard coop or pen will not keep out a bear. Properly install and maintain electric fencing to protect your chickens, hives, goats, sheep, and other livestock from bears. Visit mass.gov/bears for electric fencing tips.



Secure trash and compost

Store garbage in closed containers in a garage or outbuilding and put it by the roadside the morning of pick up. Keep compost enclosed.



Protect pets

Keep dogs leashed whenever they're outdoors and never let dogs chase or interact with bears. Check the yard before going outside with your dog. The presence of a dog could trigger a bear to be aggressive.



Bear encounter tips

Black bears are usually wary of people. If you see a bear in your yard, wait for the bear to leave, then remove or secure food sources on your property. If you encounter a bear in nature, talk in a calm voice and slowly back away. Do not run. Fight back if a black bear makes contact with you.

VISIT MASS.GOV/BEARS FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT MASSWILDLIFE FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE: 508-389-6300