

Be Bear Aware

Black bears are increasing in numbers and being seen more frequently in Connecticut. They are rarely aggressive towards humans but can create a variety of problems. In particular, bears that are fed by humans can become habituated and may need to be euthanized. Connecticut residents must learn how to reduce the likelihood of bears becoming a problem. Birdfeeders, garbage, pet food, and compost attract bears close to houses and people, and should be made unavailable to bears.



Black Bear Do's and Don'ts

Bears Near Your Home

- DO** remove bird feeders and bird food from late March through November.
- DO** clean and store grills away after use.
- DO** eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed. Add ammonia to trash to make it unpalatable.
- DON'T** intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.
- DON'T** leave pet food outside overnight.
- DON'T** add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

Bears When Hiking or Camping

- DO** make your presence known by making noise and waving your arms if you see a bear while hiking.
- DO** keep dogs on a leash and under control. A roaming dog might be perceived as a threat to a bear or its cubs.
- DO** walk away slowly if you surprise a bear nearby.
- DON'T** cook food near your tent or store food inside your tent. Instead, keep food in a secure vehicle or use rope to suspend it between two trees.
- DON'T** climb a tree, but wait in a vehicle or building for the bear to leave the area.



Connecticut
Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division



Report
*bear sightings
to the DEEP*
at 860-675-8130 or
online at [www.ct.gov/
deep/blackbear](http://www.ct.gov/deep/blackbear)