

A **A grizzly diet**



Brown (grizzly) bears are found in western Canada, Alaska, and in the states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Washington. While they mainly eat vegetation such as grasses, sedges, bulbs, and roots, they also eat insects such as ants, fish, and rodents, as well as moose, deer, caribou and elk calves.

2 **Needs of black bears**



Black bears are creatures of the forest, preferring extensive wooded areas with a variety of fruit- and nut-producing species. Streams and pools are needed for drinking and cooling. Trees larger than 50 cm (20") around with strong, furrowed bark are easily climbed refuges for spring black bear cubs, and old growth trees are preferred denning sites.

3 **Play time**



Few animals play more than bear cubs do, but why they play remains a mystery. They might play to practice fighting, mating, or hunting skills they will need as adults. Perhaps it's to strengthen social bonds, reduce aggression, enhance alliances, increase tolerance, or improve group cohesion. Play is silent, not noisy like real fighting.

4 **Cubs**



Black bear mothers usually have two cubs on average. The largest litter size is six. Cubs are born in the den during the coldest months of winter — January or February. They are barely as big as squirrels when they are born. The family will emerge from their winter den in early May, depending on weather.

5 **Size**



Black bears vary considerably in size, depending on the quality of the food available. Adult black bears typically range from about 130-190 cm (50-75 in) in length and weigh 40-225 kg (90-500 lbs). Males may be from about 20 to 60 percent larger than females. The record weight is almost 400 kg (880 lbs).

6 **Color**



Although black bears are predominantly black, chocolate and cinnamon brown color phases are also common, which often results in people confusing them with brown (grizzly) bears. A variety of color phases can be present in one family. Black bears with white and pale blue coats are known respectively as Kermode and glacier bears.

7 **Telling them apart**



Ear size is a good distinguishing characteristic that can be used to tell a grizzly (particularly a young one) from a black bear — the grizzly's ears are smaller, more rounded and further apart. A grizzly's facial profile is also much more dish-shaped as opposed to the flatter, straight face profile and larger more dog-like ears of a black bear.

8 **Bear Smartness**



The first rule of Bear Smartness is to not attract bears to areas frequented by humans. Garbage, birdseed, barbecue grease and pet food etc. attract bears to your property making it more likely for the bear to break into your home creating a safety risk for your family and a death sentence for the bear.

9 **Motherly love**



Mother bears tend to be affectionate, protective, devoted, strict, sensitive and attentive toward their cubs, raising them to an age where they can survive on their own. Female cubs may remain in their mother's natal home range, but males are discouraged from staying and must establish a new home.

10 **Be prepared!**



Learn as much as you can about bears before venturing into bear country at GetBearSmart.com. And please drive safely — watch for bears and other wildlife attempting to cross highways, especially at night. Enjoy the wilderness! Bears are far more likely to enhance your experience than spoil it.

J **Safety rules**



Make black bears feel unwelcome on your property — that's "your" territory. Make lots of noise and show your presence from a safe position. Never let your children play unsupervised in bear country (especially where grizzlies and polar bears live). Predatory attacks are extremely rare, but it's best not to take any chances.

Q **Claws and tracks**



Grizzlies have much longer claws on their front paws than black bears. They can be 2-4 in. long and are often light in color. Bears have five toes and the rear paw print looks very similar to a human's. Grizzly tracks can easily be distinguished from a black bear's by their size and longer distance between the toe pad and the claw mark.

K **Keep your home safe**



Keep accessible doors and windows closed and locked at home. Food smells can invite hungry bears inside your house. Don't store food of any kind outside, even if it is inside a locked refrigerator or freezer. Bears may damage property investigating food smells.

A **Climbing ability**



Black bears are excellent climbers. When a black bear is threatened, he usually runs from the perceived threat or goes up a tree. While grizzlies are not good tree climbers, it's important to understand that they can and will climb trees. Do not climb a tree to escape from a bear.

2 **Behavioral difference**



Grizzly bears evolved in treeless habitats influencing their behavioral response to perceived threats. While a black bear's first line of defense is retreat, grizzlies, especially sows with cubs, will defend themselves when threatened and can be very aggressive towards other bears and people they perceive as threats.

3 **Hearing, Vision, Speed**



A bear's hearing ability is excellent, and like dogs, bears hear high pitches exceeding human frequency range. Bears see in color and have good vision similar to us. They are fast too and can run more than 60 km/hr (47 mph). Bears are very strong and powerful; able to bend open a vehicle window or door.

4 **The nose knows**



Bears are sensitive about bears! Bears have a keen sense of smell and are driven by curiosity. Store garbage so that it is inaccessible to bears and dispose of it in a bear-proof container. Keep all human foods away from bears. It only leads to trouble — for you and the bear.

5 **Social Beings**



Bears can be very social and in fact form alliances and friendships — some adult bears have even been known to mentor younger unrelated bears; young unrelated subadults hang around in pairs and even groups. The bears of a region are usually familiar with one another and meetings consist of complex social exchanges.

6 **Encounter etiquette**



Remain calm when you encounter a bear! Keep your wits intact and trust your instincts. Give bears plenty of space and a safe avenue of escape. Never corner or crowd a bear! And never try to hand feed bears! They can be very physical in close proximity and you may get bitten or swatted.

7 **Courtship**



During courtship, couples often forage, play and rest together. Males may follow individual females and guard them against rivals for several days before the female becomes receptive and mating occurs. Large males chase younger males away, but mature, evenly-matched, males fight for dominance and mating rights.

8 **Active times**



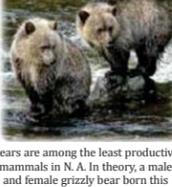
Bears are usually active from dawn to dusk, but may be seen at any time of day or night. Some bears have become nocturnal in order to avoid people. But most have become habituated to people in order to gain access to plentiful buffet of improperly stored garbage and other attractants — unfortunately, this is a risky feeding strategy for them.

9 **Coexistence**



The irresistible connection between Man and nature can sometimes lead to people attempting to befriend wild animals. But in the careful balance of coexistence, human contact and particularly feeding, can lead to brass and bold bear behavior. Fed bears learn to take liberties that most wild animals never would.

10 **Slow reproducers**



Bears are among the least productive mammals in N. A. In theory, a male and female grizzly bear born this year — if they breed as soon as they reach sexual maturity and as often as possible, and if all their offspring survive to do the same — would in the space of ten years grow to a population of only 8 bears. A pair of deer could produce 1,400 offspring.

J **Shared responsibility**



If bears start frequenting places where people live, then it's time for the entire community to acknowledge the problem and work together. By living responsibly in bear country both individuals and communities can help prevent many bear deaths and keep themselves safer.

Q **Why stand?**



A bear standing on its hind legs is just trying to better identify what has caught his attention — it's much easier to see, hear and smell things from a standing position, than down on all fours. It is certainly not a sign of aggression.

K **The myth of the growl**



Bears don't actually growl, although some sounds, like a fear moan or "huffing" might have a little throaty quality. This bear is jawing — he is holding his mouth open to intimidate his opponent. Hollywood movies use dubbed-in wolf or lion growling to make bears sound more threatening.

A **Vehicles**



Don't leave trash, groceries, animal feed, coolers or any odorous item in your vehicle or in the back of a pick-up truck. Bears can easily pry open vehicle windows and doors — even trunks — to access the food inside. Even an empty coffee cup or pop can may attract a bear. If you have children, clean up the crumbs they drop too.

2 **Birdfeeders, BBQ's, compost**



Birdfeeders attract bears into residential areas, creating a potential conflict situation. Use them only when bears are hibernating. Also, burn barbecues clean immediately after use, remove the grease can and store securely. Keep compost clean and odor free or try an indoor worm composter instead.

3 **Backyard bears**



Although watching a bear feed in your yard can be an exhilarating experience, it almost always leads to trouble at a future date. Making sure your home is bear-proof and your property attractant-free is an essential part of making your community safe for both bears and people.

4 **Bear viewing**



Grizzly bear viewing is best done with a professional guide or on a bear viewing tour. There are numerous locations you can go where bears are habituated to people viewing them — sometimes from platforms or stands, boats or vehicles. There is nothing like the thrill of meeting a bear in their natural habitat.

5 **The hierarchy**



Bears live in a dominance hierarchy based on age, size and temperament. Mature males are at the top of the hierarchy, and sub-adults and cubs at the bottom. Bears establish and maintain their social position and place in the hierarchy by posturing or acting aggressively.

6 **Around the house**



Keep your lawn mowed and weed-free. Grasses, dandelions and clover are all natural foods for bears. Cut back brush close to your house, walkways, or play areas, or remove it completely as bears are reluctant to use or cross areas without sufficient cover.

7 **Bear pepper spray**



Carry bear pepper spray as a first line of defense and know how to use it. Hike in groups of 4 or 5 people in remote areas and in grizzly country. It is best to hike during daylight hours on well-maintained trails. Keep snacks and lunches in an air-tight container. Pack out all food and garbage.

8 **Mating**



Breeding season begins in May and lasts until early July, with mating mainly occurring during June. The average breeding age for female black bears is 3.5 years and 4.5 years for male grizzlies. Males reach sexual maturity at roughly the same age as their female counterparts.

9 **Deterrents**



There are several tools and deterrents available on the market today to help keep curious or hungry bears away from you and your home, business or campsite. Protect garden vegetables and backyard chickens with a portable electric fence. Harvest garden vegetables and fruit as they ripen.

10 **Pitching a tent**



Use a portable electric fence when camping in remote areas or in grizzly country. Don't pitch tents near natural travel corridors and streams. Camp well away from natural food sources such as salmon streams, animal carcasses or berry bushes.

J **Food and camping**



When camping, don't sleep in the clothes you wore while cooking. Use bear-proof containers to store food and garbage, or hang it between 2 trees, 4 m above ground and 100 m away from your tent.

Q **Bear country basics**



Before you head out into bear country, leave information about your destination and estimated time of return. Leave foods with strong odors (e.g. tuna fish, sardines) at home. Pack out all left-overs. Make use of bear-resistant food storage containers and bear-proof waste receptacles where provided.

K **Grizzly characteristics**



The grizzly is characterized by a distinctive hump on their shoulders. They may vary in color from a light creamy shade through to black. The long guard hairs over the shoulders and back are often light colored at the tips which, from a distance, give a grizzled appearance.

A **Bears are predictable**



Understanding bear behavior is an essential part of creating a safe environment for both bears and people. Bear behavior can be predictable. The more you can learn about bears and how they behave, the less likely you will be to have a negative encounter or misinterpret interactions.

2 **Keeping pets safe**



Feed your pets indoors and store pet food inside. All pet foods, including dog bones, are highly attractive to bears. Keep cats and other small pets (rabbits, guinea pigs) indoors when unsupervised, especially at night, when predatory animals (coyotes, cougars and bears) can more easily prey on them.

3 **Landscaping**



Plant non-fruit-bearing trees and shrubs when landscaping. Remove plants and shrubs that bears like to eat (berry bushes, fruit trees) from areas where you don't want to find bears feeding, including entrance ways, busy paths, or around children's play sets. Replace them with ornamental, non-fruit-bearing varieties.

4 **Photography**



Respect all wildlife by keeping your distance. Use a telephoto lens to take pictures — do not try to get closer. Never approach any bear! When you enter a bear's personal space, you force it to flee or defend itself. What you do really matters: you play an important role in preventing conflict.

5 **Odd things bears like**



Bears are attracted to petroleum products, like gas, oil and grease. These products should always be stored securely where bears cannot access them (follow proper storage guidelines as these products may be a fire risk). Bears are also attracted to citronella and vinyl (hot tub covers, bicycle or snowmobile seats).

6 **Personal space**



Bears, like humans and other animals, have a "critical space" — an area around them that they may defend. Once you have entered a bear's critical space, you have forced the bear to act — either to run away or to be aggressive. The size of the critical space is different for every bear and every situation.

7 **Cycle of conflict**



It only takes one food reward for a bear to learn that humans are a source of easy, high calorie meals, beginning a cycle of conflict that begins and ends with the death of the bear. Learn how to keep your community, work site and home safe at GetBearSmart.com.

8 **Home etiquette**



Never leave garbage on your balcony or porch, even if it is screened. Bears are climbers and can easily break into porches, garages and even unsecured homes. Store all waste securely indoors until it can be disposed of in a bear-proof container. Wait to curb trash one to two hours before pick-up.

9 **Carnivore or omnivore?**



Although classified in the order Carnivora, grizzly and black bears are omnivores because they eat both plants and animals. Only a small percentage of their diet consist of meat, which includes fish, insects and other mammals. The amount is dependent on the type of food that is available in their habitat.

10 **Body language**



Bears use body language and vocalizations to show their intentions. Learning about bear behavior can be beneficial to people who live or recreate in bear country. The bear pictured here is approaching with unease — he is about to become defensive; evidenced by his drawn-down nose and squared off his lips.

J **Keep a "bare" campsite**



Keep all camp sites clean and tidy. Use dried foods and a portable camp stove in the back country. Cook 100 m downwind from your tent. Wash dishes promptly after eating and dispose of waste water at least 100 m away from camp. Never bring food or any tent/ non-food items inside your tent!

Q **Ritualized displays**



Although bears are large and powerful animals capable of causing injury to one another, they prefer to use ritualized threats and displays as an alternative to actually fighting. A bear may also use these same behaviors with people — and they can be very convincing. The bear pictured here though is very relaxed.

K **Try not to surprise a bear!**



Talk, sing or break sticks to alert bears of your presence. Watch for bears and bear signs — scat, tracks, scratches on trees or trampled vegetation. How you react to a bear encounter can affect the outcome. Study the rules at GetBearSmart.com.

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52 Bear Safety Tips & Facts