



# Be *BearSmart*

## Bear Spray Checklist

### Before Going To Bear Country

- Buy bear spray canisters that weigh at least 225 grams (7.9 ounces) and are labelled “for deterring bear attacks.”
- Check the canister’s expiry date and replace it when necessary.
- Practice using your bear spray so you are able to retrieve it quickly and know its range and force.
- Remember that a canister has about 8 seconds of use. Replace your canister if you have used more than 1/3 of the spray.

### Storing Bear Spray

- Keep the safety clip on and put the canister away from items that could crush or puncture it.
- Never leave it anywhere temperatures can become very hot or very cold, such as in your vehicle.

### Carrying Bear Spray

- Carry your bear spray in a hip or chest holster and not in your backpack.
- While sleeping, keep the spray next to your flashlight.

### Using Bear Spray

- Do not run from the bear.
- Evaluate the wind direction. If possible, move so the wind is at your back.



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- Speak in an authoritative voice and make yourself appear larger.
- Remove the safety clip and aim low in front of the bear so the animal runs into the spray.
- If a bear approaches:
  - At 9 to 15 m (30 to 50 ft) fire a warning blast for ½ to 1 second, aiming the bear spray slightly downward.
  - At 6 to 9 m (20 to 30 ft) fire 1 to 2-second blasts in continuous succession, aiming slightly downward in front of the bear's head until the bear leaves.
  - At 0 to 6 m (0 to 20 ft) fire 1 to 2-second blasts in continuous succession, aiming at the head or into the nose and mouth of the bear until the bear leaves.
- Hold your breath and be sure to move out of the bear's way.
- Spray and react. Try to keep some bear spray in reserve. Always re-evaluate your situation.
- When the attack is interrupted, retreat. Do not run. Do not turn your back on the bear.

### **First-aid Treatment for Bear Spray**

- Move away from the contaminated area to fresh air as quickly as possible.
- Flush exposed skin with cold water and soap.
- Do not rub exposed areas but pat dry with a towel.
- To flush spray out of eyes, place your head under water and open your eyes every few seconds. Do not rub your eyes.
- Do not apply lotions or creams to the exposed areas.
- If the effects of the spray do not dissipate in 30 to 45 minutes, seek medical attention.