



# Be Bear Wise while camping

**When enjoying Ontario's campsites, lakes, forests or hiking trails, remember you are in natural bear habitat. Bears have a keen sense of smell, and are attracted by the odour of all food and garbage. Avoid conflicts with bears while camping by being prepared and aware.**

Prepare:

- Plan your trip with safety in mind by learning how to avoid attracting a bear.
- Teach children how to be Bear Wise and never approach or run from a bear. Keep children between adults while hiking.
- Think about how to safely store your food and garbage while on the campsite.
- Pack food with special care.



Be Bear Wise:

- Look for signs of bear activity near your campsite.
- Keep dogs on a leash. The bear may follow the dog back to its owner.
- Follow the advice set out by Ontario Parks or the private campground
- Use bear-resistant containers or sealed plastic bags to store food when camping or in back country.
- Hang food at least 4 metres (13 feet) above the ground and 3 metres (10 feet) from tree limbs.
- Never eat, cook or store food, cooking equipment or toiletries in your tent.
- Clean up at your campsite:
  - Clean fish away from your campsite
  - Burn scraps and fat droppings
  - Drain dish water.

Visit [ontario.ca/bearwise](https://ontario.ca/bearwise) for more tips on being Bear Wise.

## Packing checklist:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long ropes for hanging food and garbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-handled axe     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle or air horn                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog leash            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear spray                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily prepared food |

  /ONresources  
TTY 705-945-7641



Always call 911 in an emergency.  
Call 1-866-514-2327 to report a sighting.