

Bear Quick Facts

If I call Wildlife Officials or the Police will they trap and relocate a bear?

No, there are no remote places to move bears where they won't come into contact with people. The solution is to modify your own habits.

Do grizzly bears live in North Carolina?

No. North Carolina has black bears, which are 5-6 feet long and 2-3 feet tall when on all fours. Females usually weigh between 100-300 pounds; males can weigh between 200-500 pounds.

What should I do if I see a bear?

Try to stay calm. Bears are usually wary of people unless humans feed or provoke them. Never feed, approach, surround or corner a bear. If it changes its natural behavior because of your presence, you are too close. Back away slowly, making lots of noise.

Where in North Carolina do bears live?

The vast majority of bears live in the mountain and coastal regions of the state. However, black bears occasionally wander into the Piedmont region. While they live in the woods, bears occasionally wander into residential areas or towns in search of food. If left alone and not fed, these wandering bears will eventually leave the area.

Will a black bear attack me?

Black bears tend to be shy and non-aggressive toward humans. However, if frequently fed, bears may become dependent on human foods, which may lead to increased interaction with people. Frequent human-bear contact can cause bears to become more bold and visible around humans.



Preventing Problems with Black Bears

- Secure bags of trash inside cans stored in a garage, basement or other secure area.
- Place trash outside, as late as possible, on trash pick-up days -- not the night before. Keep all garbage sites clean.
- If a bear is in the area, remove bird feeders and hummingbird feeders, even those advertised as "bear proof."
- If you must feed your pets outdoors, make sure all food is consumed and empty bowls are removed.
- Clean all food and grease from barbecue grill after each use.

If you're already having a Problem with Bears:

- Try repellents, but don't rely on them. There are no repellents registered for use on bears. Sprinkling ammonia or other strong disinfectants on garbage can mask food odors.
- Frighten the bear. Shouting, clapping, blasting a horn or motion-sensitive lights may temporarily scare off a bear.
- Leave the bear alone. Crowds can unnerve a bear, causing it to act unpredictably. Disperse and allow the bear to move on undisturbed.
- Install electric fencing. It protects beehives, dumpsters, gardens, compost piles, or other potential food sources.