

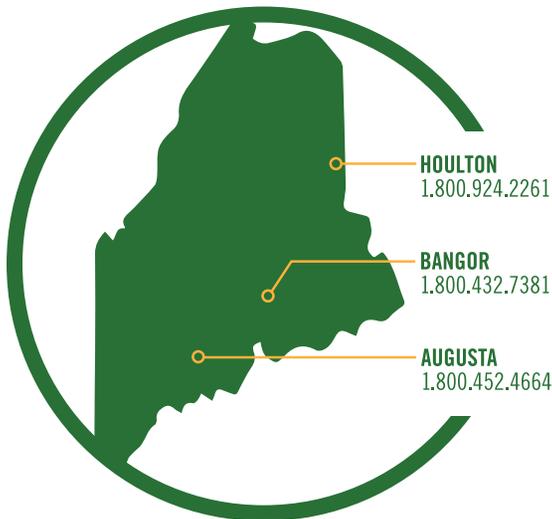
THE AMERICAN BLACK BEAR IN MAINE

Maine is home to the largest population of black bears in the eastern US. Our bears are most active between April 1 and November 1.

When natural foods are scarce, especially in the spring or dry summers, bears will venture into backyards and fields in search of easily accessible food such as bird feeders, garbage, grills, and pet foods.

While hundreds of conflicts between bears and people are reported each year in Maine, many can be prevented by simply removing or securing common bear attractants. Removing these food sources will also limit other backyard visitors (raccoons, skunks, etc.).

If you have an issue with a bear and need assistance, contact the Warden Service dispatch center closest to you.



IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR



In a building, dumpster, or around the corner

- Give the bear a clear escape route (do not corner it)
- Leave any doors open as you **back away** from the bear
- Do not lock the bear in a room



In your backyard

- From a safe distance, make loud noises by shouting or banging pots and pans together to scare the bear
- When the bear leaves, remove potential attractants such as garbage, bird seed, or pet food
- Ask neighbors to remove attractants

Remember, bear conflicts are a community issue. It is important to work together to remove bear attractants.



mefishwildlife.com

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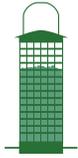


AVOIDING BLACK BEAR CONFLICTS AND PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM DAMAGE



While hundreds of bear conflicts are reported each year, many can be prevented by simply **removing** or **securing** common bear attractants each spring.

BIRD SEED



1 REMOVE & STORE INSIDE BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND NOVEMBER 1

- Take bird feeders down
- Store seed and feeders indoors (you can still feed birds in the winter)

2 SECURE & CLEAN

- Rake up bird seed from the ground

GARBAGE



- Store garbage cans in a building or enclosed by electric fence
- Take to curb on morning of pickup

- Keep outbuilding and garage doors closed at all times and repair broken window and doors
- Dumpster lids and doors should be kept closed and latched
- Use bear-resistant dumpsters or garbage cans

GRILLS

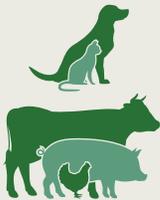


- Store grill inside when not in use
- If you are having bear conflicts, stop grilling until bear moves on



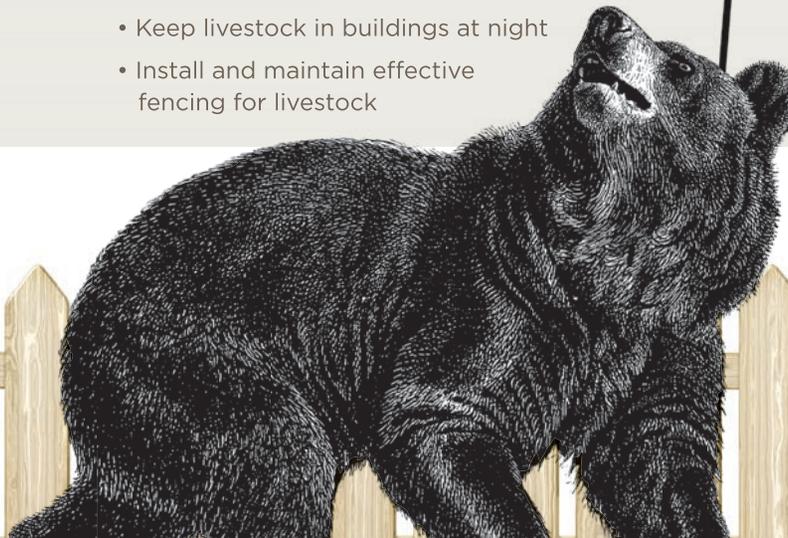
- Burn off food residue
- Dispose of food wrappers and grease cups

PETS AND LIVESTOCK



- Feed pets inside
- Store livestock and pet food inside
- Keep livestock in buildings at night
- Install and maintain effective fencing for livestock

- If you feed your pets or livestock outside:
- Clean dishes daily
 - Remove leftover food daily



For more information on black bears in Maine, please visit us online at mefishwildilfe.com/livingwithwildlife

