



BEAR SPRAY

A beginner's guide

What

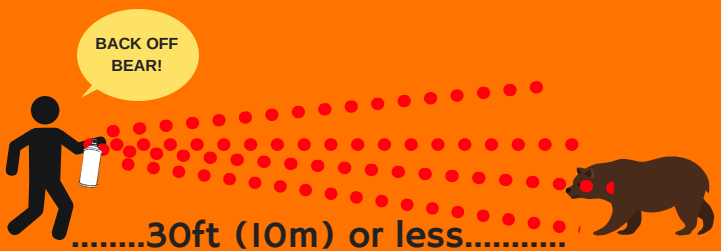
Bear spray is a non-lethal, effective tool used to deter a bear in a close encounter.

Why

It can teach bears to stay away from humans and prevent human injury and death. Bear spray is inexpensive, easy to use and does not cause permanent damage.

When

Always watch and listen for bears when you are in bear country. Use your bear spray if a bear approaches you and is within 30 feet (10 meters), regardless of why the bear is approaching you.



When not

- If the bear is already moving away from you
- If the bear hasn't noticed you or is not interested in you. In this case, back away quietly, keeping an eye on the bear and pick another route. Do not run!
- If a bear is farther than 30 feet (10 meters) away. The spray will not go that far.

Caution: bear spray is not like bug spray. Do not spray it on yourself, your clothes or around your camp. The smell may attract bears.

How to use bear spray

Be prepared

- Check the expiry date. All expired bear spray should be replaced.
- Bear spray should be carried on your body at all times. In a close encounter with a bear you may become separated from your bike or stroller. Make sure you have a system for carrying your bear spray so you can act fast.
- Carry an extra can on long excursions.
- Remove packaging, including the plastic tie around the handle if there is one. This is different from the safety clip and will prevent you from spraying if not removed.
- Practice sliding the safety clip on and off. Tie it to the thumb loop with string so it doesn't get lost when you remove it.
- Do not practice spraying it; you will probably get it in your eyes which hurts a lot and you won't have enough left if you need it. There are only 2-3 bursts in each can.



6 steps

- 1 Slide the safety clip off
- 2 Hold the can with both hands, arms extended, thumb on the trigger
- 3 Aim low and spray upward in a zig zag pattern, counting 1-2-3. Back away while you spray. **DO NOT RUN!**
- 4 Watch the wind direction. If possible move upwind so the spray will be carried to the bear (and not into your face).
- 5 Leave the area. If the bear is still around, back away keeping an eye on the bear. **DO NOT RUN!**
- 6 Put the safety clip back on the trigger. Replace the can with a new one for your next wilderness adventure.