

It's Black Bear Season again.

Spring is here and we are starting to increase our outdoor activities. With our increased interest in all things outside, so too the Black Bears are becoming more active. The Ministry of Natural Resources offers information on their website [Ontario.ca/bearwise](https://ontario.ca/bearwise) and [Ontario.ca/attentionours](https://ontario.ca/attentionours) to aid in our understanding of bear behaviour and to provide precautions that may deter black bear incursions into our urban neighbourhoods and wilderness recreational areas.

Simple routines such as:

- Eliminate odours. Put garbage out only on the morning of garbage pick up, not the night before and place it in containers with tight fitting lids. Take garbage to the nearest municipal dumpster and ensure the lid is securely fastened after use or take it to the municipal landfill site.
- Whenever possible, store garbage indoors (house, garage or locked outbuilding) or in bear-resistant containers
- Keep meat/fish scraps in the freezer until garbage day
- Frequently wash garbage receptacles and lids with a strong smelling disinfectant
- Rinse food containers prior to placing in the garbage
- Fill bird feeders only through the winter months
- Feed pets indoors and keep pet food in a secure area
- Avoid putting meat, fish, sweet foods or fruit into your composter
- Remove food residues and grease from barbeques, including the grease cup underneath, after each use
- Remove ripe fruit from trees and bushes
- Remember that cooking odours can attract bears



To report bear problems, call the Bear Wise Hotline at [1 866 514-2327](tel:18665142327). In an immediate emergency call your local police or 911.

Please visit the Bear Wise website to learn about bears, their needs and behaviour. Practice Bear Wise habits. It takes everyone working together to keep bears away.