

## BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Avoid camping in an area likely to be used by bears such as travel routes, waterways, and food sources including spawning salmon or berry bushes. Avoid camping on beaches that are travel corridors for wolves.

Always pack out what you bring in. If possible, burn uneaten food completely. Leave no trace and do not put others at risk by teaching wildlife to associate people with sources of food.

If there is a designated campsite, use it and any bear-resistant storage options that are available. In undeveloped areas, hang your food 4 m off the ground and 1.3 m from the top and side supports. Bring certified bear-resistant containers if you can't hang your food. Your tent, cooking area and food storage areas should be at least 50 metres apart and form a triangle. Have the prevailing wind blow from the tent towards the cooking and storage areas.

Never bring attractants into your tent but do bring your bear spray and keep it handy.



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

Learn more at  
[www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)



To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at  
**1.877.952.7277**

WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

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## "Bare" Camping



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## BC IS WILDLIFE COUNTRY

To prevent an unexpected encounter with a bear, cougar or wolf, take the following precautions:

1. **Be aware of your surroundings.** Are you in prime wildlife habitat? Watch for fresh scat, claw marks on trees, logs torn apart or scavengers in the area. If you find a carcass, leave the area immediately and notify authorities.
2. **Make noise** by calling out frequently, especially if sightlines are poor. Use caution when the wind or the sound of running water may mask your sound and/or scent.
3. **Hike in a group when possible.** Some parks may require a group size of 4 or more in grizzly bear country. Check ahead when planning your trip.
4. **Keep your dog on a leash.** Some parks may not allow dogs because of conflict with wildlife. Over 50% of black bear attacks on people in North America involve dogs. Bears and other animals may see dogs as a potential threat or prey.
5. **Always bring bear spray.** Check our website for critical information on how to safely transport and use bear spray.

If you do encounter a bear, cougar or wolf:

**DO NOT RUN.** Running can trigger an instinct to chase or attack. Stay calm, prepare your bear spray, and back away slowly without turning your back. In most bear encounters, you do not want to be threatening. With cougars and wolves, you need to be more assertive. Be fully prepared by reading more on these species and clicking on the link to the Staying Safe in Bear Country video on our website.

Report any encounter with an aggressive animal by calling the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277 and alerting park operators.



### WHAT WILDLIFE CAN YOU EXPECT?

When planning your trip, find out what wildlife you may encounter and be prepared. You can learn more about what, where and when to expect to encounter wildlife by visiting the WildSafeBC website. Other sources of information include:

- BC Parks and Parks Canada websites
- Campground websites and local staff
- Tourism centres
- Local outdoor retailers
- Local government websites and staff



## "BARE" CAMPSITES ARE SAFE CAMPSITES

Anything that has an odour can attract wildlife. Never leave these items unattended and never bring them into your sleeping area. This includes:

- Food and items used in food preparation
- Coolers, whether empty or full
- Garbage, wrappings, and recyclables, including bottles and cans
- Pet food and bowls
- Deodorant, toothpaste, citronella, bug spray etc...



"At Risk" Campsite

Keep it "bare" when you're not there or when you are sleeping. This will keep you and your camping neighbours safe.



"Bare" Campsite

## FRONT COUNTRY CAMPING

Camping is a great way to enjoy nature and the outdoors but there are a few simple steps you should follow to keep wildlife wild and keep you and your pets safe.



- Inspect the area around your campsite - check for bear signs (scat, claw marks on trees, fresh digging or tracks). Report any signs to campground staff. Be especially cautious if you find scat with evidence of plastic or other garbage.
- Bears have long memories. Your campsite may be clean now but if a bear found food there earlier, it may be back, so always be vigilant.
- Store attractants (food, toiletries, bug spray or anything that has an odour) in a hard-sided vehicle and never in your tent or soft-sided tent trailer. Use food lockers if provided.
- Cook in clothes other than those you will sleep in.
- Dispose of grey water in designated areas or at least 50 m from your sleeping area.
- Prepare food in designated areas.
- Dispose of garbage and recyclables promptly at designated sites.
- Campsites should be free of all attractants whenever you are not present, even for short periods of time, or when you are sleeping.
- NEVER feed any wildlife. This includes smaller animals like squirrels, birds and raccoons. The feed that attracts them is also a powerful attractant for bears and other predators.
- Never leave pets unattended or outside at night. They can attract predators. Always keep them on leash except in designated off-leash areas.
- Listen to park and campground staff. Their goal is to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable camping experience.



[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)