



HOW TO USE BEAR SPRAY

Bear spray is a deterrent made of hot pepper oil. It inflames the eyes and upper respiratory system. If used properly, it can deter an aggressive bear.

1 Keep bear spray accessible. Keep bear spray in a holster or external pocket. Never keep tucked inside your backpack.

2 Remove the safety cap. If you encounter an aggressive bear, grab the canister, put your index finger in the loop and remove the safety clip by wrapping your thumb over the clip and pulling your thumb back.

3 Aim slightly down and adjust for wind. Aim at the head of the animal and toward the ground so the bear will run through the cloud of spray. Never spray into the wind.

4 Start spraying when the bear is 30 feet away. Hold the canister with two hands, index finger through loop and thumb on the trigger. Spray in 2 second blasts, in a side-to-side motion.

5 Keep spraying until the bear changes direction. A bear may be deterred after one of two blasts of spray. If it keeps approaching, keep spraying in short blasts.

6 Leave the area. When the bear stops or retreats, back away slowly. Do not run or make sudden movements. Keep an eye on the bear to make sure it's not following you.



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BEAR SPRAY TIPS

Be careful not to accidentally spray yourself. If you do, the effects are temporary and should wear off within 30 – 45 minutes. Flush any exposed areas, including your eyes, with large amounts of water. Find fresh air.

Do not spray clothing or equipment with bear spray. Bear spray is only effective if it is airborne. Do not spray it on clothing or gear—it doesn't work like that, and doing so may actually attract wildlife.

Bear spray cannot be taken on airplanes. TSA does not allow bear spray on planes, either in checked luggage or carry-on bags. If you're travelling by airplane and need bear spray at your destination, plan ahead and research local stores that carry it.

Store bear spray in a cool, dry place away from kids and pets. Keep your bear spray somewhere that's below 120°F (48°C) and above 32°F (0°C). Don't store it in a hot vehicle or in direct sunlight—it could explode.

Continue to be bear aware. Just because you have bear spray, doesn't mean you can let your guard down. Be diligent about keeping your camp clean, storing food properly, making noise while you hike and employing other bear deterrent techniques.