



# Be *BearSmart*

## Pepper Spray Checklist

### Buying Bear Spray

- Be sure the canister is labelled “for deterring bear attacks.”
- The canister should weigh at least 225 grams (8 ounces).
- Check the canister’s expiry date and replace your bear spray when necessary.

### Carrying Bear Spray

- Keep the spray accessible. Carry it in a hip or chest holster.
- While sleeping, keep the spray next to your flashlight.

### Storing Bear Spray

- The safety clip should always be in place when the spray is not in use.
- Keep the canister away from items that could crush or puncture the can.
- Never leave the canister in direct sunlight or in your vehicle where temperatures can rise quickly.

### Using Bear Spray

- Use as a deterrent only with an aggressive or attacking bear.
- Before heading out, practice reaching for your spray until you can retrieve it quickly.



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- If possible, practice releasing the spray with an expired canister or purchase an inert canister that has the same spraying power but contains no hot pepper.
- If a bear charges, begin spraying when the bear gets within 40 feet (equivalent to a bus length).
- Release the spray in a cloud pattern, not a stream; the cloud should last at least 6 seconds.
- If there is a strong wind, wait until the bear is even closer before spraying.



## First-aid Treatment for Bear Spray

- Move away from the contaminated area to fresh air as quickly as possible.
- Flush exposed skin with cold water and soap.
- Do not rub exposed areas but pat dry with a towel.
- To flush spray out of eyes, place your head under water and open your eyes every few seconds. Do not rub your eyes.
- Do not apply lotions or creams to the exposed areas.
- If the effects of the spray do not dissipate in 30 to 45 minutes, seek medical attention.