

What can you do about a bear near your home?



Scare that Bear!

Bears are naturally shy and timid around people, so reinforce their fears by scaring them away.

NEVER leave your safe location to pursue a bear. Before trying any of these methods, visit MyFWC.com/Bear to learn full details of which technique will work for your specific situation.

If you see a bear in your yard, get in a secure location like a doorway or car, and make sure the bear has a clear escape path, then “Scare that Bear” with noise!

Yell at the bear, blow a whistle or air horn, bang pots and pans together, or honk a car horn.



In some situations, adults, 18 years and older, can use paintballs or slingshots from 5 – 15 yards away aimed at the shoulder or rear of a bear. Stop as soon as the bear runs for cover, away from the area or climbs a tree.

Carry bear spray and learn to use it properly, factoring in wind direction, distance to bear (20-30 ft.) and your escape route. It is available at many outdoor and sporting goods retailers. Make sure to buy one specific for use on bears.



Install a motion-activated device, such as a water sprinkler (e.g., Water Scarecrow) or light, audio alarm (e.g., Critter Gitter). These devices can scare a bear away when you are not present and are available at several online retailers.

Install an “Unwelcome Mat” to keep a bear away from a specific area (e.g., under a window or door, along patio edge, an opening in a fence).

Instructions on how to build an ‘Unwelcome Mat’ are available on <http://MyFWC.com/Bear>.



While attempting to keep a bear off of your property, please note one of the many laws protecting bears is F.A.C. 68A-4.009(1): “No person shall take, possess, injure, shoot, collect, or sell black bears or their parts or to attempt to engage in such conduct except as authorized by Commission rule or by permit from the Commission.”

If you are experiencing bear problems or for more information on these and other methods, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office nearest you or visit <http://MyFWC.com/Bear>.