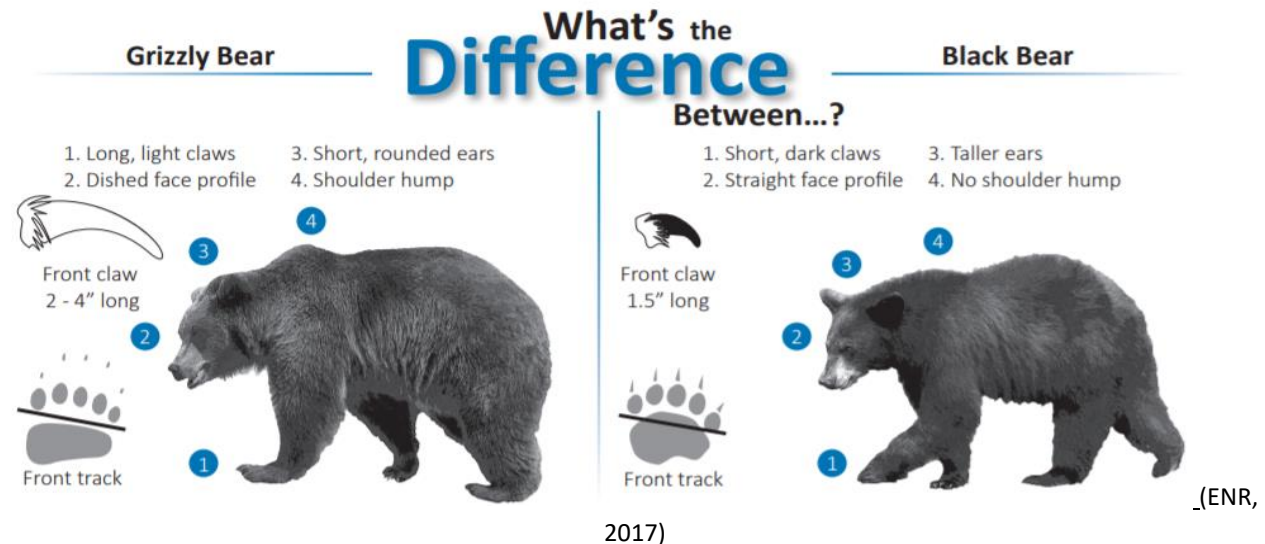


Tlicho Cabin Bear Safety Guidelines

Grizzly and Black bears can be found throughout Mòwhì Gogha Dè Nìtìèè. They are an important part of the northern ecosystem. Northerners are committed to maintaining healthy populations of all wildlife, including grizzly and black bears. **Always treat bears with respect and know the difference between grizzlies and black bears because they do behave differently.**



When camping:

- Avoid camping in areas frequented by bears.
- Watch for fresh bear droppings and tracks.
- Don't keep food in tents or areas of your camp other than the cook tent or kitchen/cooking area.
- Avoid cooking greasy foods; do not spill grease on the ground.
- Carry bear deterrents.
- Burn tì'ehtè (birch tree fungus) around your camp.
- Always sleep inside a shelter (tent, cabin, etc.)
- Burn all garbage every day or take it to a bearproof disposal site. **Don't bury garbage, this does not eliminate odours.** Don't keep garbage outside overnight.
- Keep your camp clean. Wash all dishes and utensils after every meal.
- Make noise where visibility is limited when walking in the bush.

If you are going to leave your campsite, make sure you Bearproof your camp by:

- Storing food and other attractants, things that give off an odour, (dish soap, toothpaste, dog food, etc.) in a place that the bear can't get at.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back.
- Take a partner and bear deterrents with you.

While you are travelling around your cabin, be safe by:

- Always being alert.
- Travelling only during daylight.

- Being extra cautious around bear travel areas, including shorelines, flood plains, trails or near berry patches, areas rich in horsetails and other grasses.
- Watching for bear evidence such as fresh bear droppings and tracks; there may be a bear nearby.
- Carrying bear deterrents.
- Travelling in groups rather than alone.
- Avoiding carrying anything that has an odor.
- Making noise where visibility is limited.

If you are fishing near your cabin:

- Be cautious near streams or lakes. Bears like these areas.
- To minimize bacterial growth in fish, and fish smells in camp, fish on the last day of camp and take your fish home.
- Store smelly clothes in an airtight bag or container.
- If cleaning fish at camp, dispose of guts and other waste far from camp or take it home with you.

If You Encounter a Bear:

- Remember the 3 S's... **Stop, Stand still, Stay calm.**
- Make sure others know a bear is in the vicinity.
- Give the bear an open way of escape.
- Do not run.**

If the Bear is at a DISTANCE:

- Let the bear know you are there by speaking in low tones and slowly waving your arms.
- Quietly walk back to where you came or go way around to get back to your camp.
- Always keep an eye on the bear.
- Stay downwind, minimize smells.
- Consider using warning shots, noisemakers.

If the Bear is NEARBY:

- Do not shout or make sudden movements.
- Avoid direct eye contact.
- Back away slowly.

If a Bear Charges:

- Many charges are bluffs; the bear will often veer to the side at the last minute.
- If you have a firearm and contact appears unavoidable, **shoot to kill.**
- Use a chemical repellent (bear spray) only at close range.
- If you play dead during a bear attack, lie on your side, curl into a ball with your legs tight to our chest and hands clasped behind your neck.

Examples of Deterrents and what you should know about them:

- Examples:** 12 gauge cracker shells, bear bangers, air horns, flares and chemical repellents such as pepper (bear) spray.
- Deterrents **do not work all the time**, therefore, always try to avoid bear conflicts.
- Deterrents are potentially dangerous so use with extreme caution; **if using bear spray, make sure you stay upwind before using or you may get sprayed.**

Some information gathered from:

Government of Northwest Territories ©. "Bear Brochure" ENR, 2017,

https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf