How to keep bears out of your cabin

Presented by:
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
The Bear Necessities Coalition, Talkeetna, Alaska
Build bear barriers
Avoid this damage to your cabin.
Build bear barriers stronger than these.
When building bear shutters consider:

- using at least ¾ inch plywood.
- mount shutters as flush to the wall as possible.
- inset shutters inside the window frame.
- use fully threaded hanger bolt screws.
- make bear barriers easy to put up and take off.
- simple is good!

Photo by Brian Okonek
Hanger bolts and thumb screws make it easy to take shutters on and off.

Photo by Brian Okonek
Inset shutter secured with barrel bolts.
¾ inch plywood on a cable.
Release shutter and slide away from the window.
Welded window covers.

Photo by Sheldon Ewing, Weld Air
The grating can be removed by releasing the horizontal bolts.
A rail system

Photos by Tara Petter
A pin secures the shutter.
A hinged shutter secured with gate latches and a back up chain.

Photo by Brian Okonek
Another way to keep shutters or doors from being pulled open.

Photos by Chris Mannix
Ideally a door should open out.

If your door opens inward design a way to keep it from being pushed in.

Put an eye bolt through the door and chain the door to the outer wall.

Build a bracket that will allow you to insert a 2 x 4 across the door.

Block a 2nd door from the inside with 2x4 brackets lag screwed into the wall.

Photo by Brian Okonek
This construction will allow a bear to easily enter your cabin.

Photos by Brian Okonek
¾ inch plywood attached with hanger bolts and thumb screws and mounted flush with door jam.
Steel brackets made to prevent a door from being pushed inward.
Eye bolt through the door with a chain back-up so the door cannot be pushed in.
Steel security door designed and built by the owner.
Welded door and window guards.

Photo by Sheldon Ewing, Weld Air
If you have a second door that opens in, you can secure it with brackets and a 2x4 from inside the cabin.
To protect your property and keep bears wild be creative and outsmart them.