

Be Bear Smart!

Keep food sources out of reach



Photo: Fiorenzo Cattaneo

- ✓ **Store garbage in a secured area**
Keep all garbage in air-tight bags, enclosed in a secure area or locked dumpster.
- ✓ **Feed birds only in winter, or hang feeders 15' off the ground**
Bird feed such as sunflower seed and hummingbird mix are among the strongest bear attractants. Even food scraps for birds may invite bears. Only feed the birds in the winter when bears are not present, or hang feeders out of reach.
- ✓ **Feed pets indoors and store pet food indoors**
Pet food and pets can attract bears to your property. If you must feed pets outside, be sure to bring pet food and dishes indoors afterward – especially at night.
- ✓ **Pick ripe fruit from trees**
The sweet smell of ripe fruit is irresistible for a bear. If you have just a few trees, remove fruit regularly. Consider electric fencing for larger orchards.
- ✓ **Clean up fruit that has fallen to the ground frequently**
Rotting fruit on the ground not only smells stronger than fruit left on a tree, it's also easier for bears to access.
- ✓ **Clean the barbecue after each use and store securely**
Burn off all food residue or wash your barbecue thoroughly after each use. Store it in a secure place.
- ✓ **Bring food and ice chests indoors at night**
Bears can smell a meal from a mile away! This includes wrapped foods in closed ice chests.
- ✓ **Don't put oil, grease, dairy products, meat, bones, or fruit in the compost**
These items are powerful attractants for bears looking for high-calorie foods. Eliminating them also helps reduce odors.
- ✓ **Reduce compost odor by adding lime**
Covering compost with leaves, soil, and grass also helps reduce odors.
- ✓ **Stay indoors until a bear leaves**
Although they are seldom dangerous, bears are wild animals and are unpredictable. Keep your distance! Report unusual bear activity to local authorities.