

# Bear-Safe Property Checklist and Resources

Bears are curious animals that can smell odors miles away. Use this checklist to reduce bear attractants at your home.

## GARBAGE AND FOOD WASTE

**NO YES**

- Garbage is stored inside a secure building or in a bear-resistant trash canister.
- Trash is put out the morning of pick up—not the night before.
- Trash cans are not over-filled and are shut and locked properly.
- Recycling is kept inside or in a bear-resistant canister until disposal.
- Compost is kept inside, in a bear-resistant compost container, or fenced.

## PETS AND ANIMALS

**NO YES**

- Pets are fed inside, and food is kept inside or in a bear-resistant container.
- Chickens and bee boxes are secured with electric fencing.
- Food is not left out for strays or other animals.

## HOMES AND OUTBUILDINGS

**NO YES**

- Doors to buildings are kept closed when people are not around.
- Windows are closed when people are not home or away overnight.
- Pet doors are locked at night.

## FOOD AND GRILLS

**NO YES**

- Food is not left unattended outdoors.
- Freezers and refrigerators are kept inside.
- Grills, smokers, and ovens are stored inside when not in use; if not possible, they are cleaned and covered.
- Fire pits are cleaned and do not contain trash or food scraps.
- Coolers are stored inside.

## YARD AND GARDEN

**NO YES**

- Veggie, fruit, and herb gardens are secured with electric fencing.
- Fruit trees are gleaned and fallen fruit is picked up.
- Bird feeders are not used or are removed March through November.
- No food, trash, or anything with an odor is left outside, including in vehicles.

**Tips and resources  
on reverse side**



**PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES**

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# TIPS and RESOURCES

## to help you make your property bear-safe

**Making your home bear-safe can seem like a lot of effort, but every action can help deter a bear from being drawn to your property. Bear-safe is people-safe!**

To keep bears out of garbage and recycling, store it in a bear-resistant container or in a secure building at all times—doing both is ideal—until the day of disposal.



A grizzly bear tests a trash can.

**If you use a trash hauling service:** Contact your trash hauler directly to request a bear-resistant canister.

**If you haul your trash to a dump or transfer station:** Buy a certified bear-resistant canister. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) certifies bear-resistant products. To see the list of products, visit <https://igbconline.org/programs/bear-resistant-products/>. We recommend Toter or Kodiak cans. You can buy either or both products at some hardware stores, including Home Depot, Lowe's, and Ace Hardware.



The Wizard composter is at left.

**If you recycle:** There is no specific certified bear-resistant container for home recycling; some people use a second bear-resistant trash can or simply keep recycling inside until disposal.

**If you compost:** If you compost outside, surround it with an electric fence. You could also use a bear-resistant container. There are no certified bear-resistant composters, but some brands hold up better than others, like the Good Ideas brand Compost Wizard Dueling Tumbler, available online. Learn more about reducing compost odors at [bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics/food-garbage](http://bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics/food-garbage).



Many things we enjoy in our yards draw bears in, like gardens, bird feeders, and fruit trees. Glean fruit as often as possible, fence gardens if possible, and remove bird feeders except in winter. Instead of bird feeders, try bird baths or nest boxes to attract birds instead of bears!



Electric fencing can be simple and effective for smaller areas, as seen around these bee boxes.

## Still need help?

Contact People and Carnivores for ideas, or to see what equipment rebates are available. Email us at: [info@PeopleAndCarnivores.org](mailto:info@PeopleAndCarnivores.org)