

Keeping Bears Out of Garbage and Waste

Bears can smell food and trash from miles away, and if they get into them once, they're hooked, which will likely get them killed. Bears are drawn to solid and liquid waste, recycling, and compost. Secure these items for your safety, your neighbors' safety, and the bear's safety.



A Grizzly bear tests a trash can for strength.

GARBAGE

Garbage is the most common source of human-bear conflict. Recycling waste can also attract bears due to food and drink residue in packaging.

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



Toter can

If You Use a Trash Hauling Service

Contact your trash hauler directly to request a bear-resistant canister or information on how to obtain one. These cans may come with a small additional service fee. **Do not buy your own can without first talking with your trash hauler**, as they may require using their cans.



Kodiak can

If You Haul Your Trash to a Dump or Transfer Station

Buy a certified bear-resistant canister so that you can store your garbage securely until you dispose of it — especially if you keep it outdoors (keep it inside if possible). Look for

cans sold as bear-resistant from the brands Toter (in 64- and 96-gallon cans) or Kodiak (in 65- and 95-gallon cans). You can buy these products at some hardware stores, including Home Depot, Lowe's, and Ace Hardware. If they are not available in-store, they can often be purchased online. Kodiak cans are also sold online by Bearicuda as the "Stealth 2" can.

Kodiak and Toter cans are certified "bear-resistant" by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), meaning they've met specific criteria and passed a live bear test using captive grizzlies. To check if a product is actually bear-resistant or to see the full array of bear-resistant products, visit: IGBCOnline.org/programs/bear-resistant-products.

Contact People and Carnivores if you need help figuring out which can is best for you.

No Matter How Your Trash Gets to the Dump

- Don't overfill your can.
- Make sure the lid is closed and locked.
- Keep your garbage inside a hard-sided, secure building, even if you have a bear-resistant can, until the day of disposal.

Keeping Bears Out of Garbage and Waste – Continued

RECYCLING

Recycling waste attracts bears just like garbage does because of food and drink residue left in packaging. There is no specific certified bear-resistant container for home recycling. Many people use a second bear-resistant trash can or simply keep recycling inside until disposal.

COMPOST

Food smells from compost attract bears. If you compost outside, surround compost piles or containers with an electric fence. You may also choose to use a bear-resistant container. There are no IGBC certified bear-resistant composters, but some brands hold up to bears better than others, like the Good Ideas brand Compost Wizard Dueling Tumbler, available online.

Other Tips to Reduce the Draw of Compost:

- Beyond securing your compost, decrease the smell with these tips:
- When adding new food scraps, mix them in to the pile instead of leaving them on top.
- Avoid adding meat, bones, dairy products, fatty items, and unrinsed eggshells.
- Make sure you have a mix of ingredients to help compost break down more quickly and reduce odors. Combine “green” items (kitchen scraps, vegetables, small amounts of fruit) with at least double the amount of “brown” items (dead leaves, dry garden and grass clippings, wood chips, egg cartons, newspaper, cardboard).

Learn more about reducing compost odors at [Bearwise.org/Six-Bearwise-Basics/Food-garbage](https://www.bearwise.org/Six-Bearwise-Basics/Food-garbage).



This certified bear-resistant Toter garbage can is being used to store compost that hasn't yet broken down.



The Wizard composter's round shape helps to keep bears out.

Need financial assistance?

If you need financial assistance to purchase a bear-resistant garbage can for your property, People and Carnivores may be able to help. Email us at info@PeopleAndCarnivores.org to learn about our cost-share or garbage canister rebate programs.



PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES

info@PeopleAndCarnivores.org
(406) 587-3389