

BE BEAR AWARE

If you manage the bear attractants around your house, worksite or campsite you can keep your family safe and keep bears from being destroyed. There are a number of things you can do:

1. Keep all garbage securely stored until collection day. Placing garbage at the curb before collection day is poor behaviour and often illegal if your community has garbage bylaws in place. Residents in communities that do not have curbside pick-up should keep refuse in a bear resistant container.
2. Manage your fruit trees and berry bushes responsibly. Pick all fruit as it ripens and ensure that windfalls do not accumulate.
3. Bird feeders often become bear feeders. Please – only feed birds during the winter months.
4. Feed pets indoors, or if fed outside, take in any feed that is not immediately eaten.
5. Keep your barbecue clean and free from odours. Burn off the grill every time after use and clean out the grease traps
6. Manage your compost properly. Composts should have equal amounts of brown and green materials added to reduce odours.
7. If you keep chickens, bees or small livestock use a properly installed and maintained electric fence. Store all your feed in a secure location and ensure feeding areas are clean and free of attractants.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



BEAR SAFETY TIP

If you have a bear in your yard, slowly retreat into the house and ensure that the home is secure. Call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line **(1-877-952-7277)** to report any incidents. After the bear has left ensure that whatever attracted the bear is removed.

HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS

Bears account for approximately 20,000 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.

Garbage is the number one bear attractant cited when reporting a call.

Relocation is seldom a solution for bears attracted to garbage. Individuals often return to their original territory or become “problem” animals in other communities. In addition, relocated wildlife often fail to adapt to their new habitat and, as a result, may starve to death or be killed by those animals that already occupy the area.

Bears that become highly food-conditioned and habituated to humans are often destroyed because of concerns for human safety.

Early reporting of a bear in a neighbourhood helps address underlying issues before the bear becomes habituated.