



A Bear's Life
Depends
On It

Home Audit Checklist



TRASH & RECYCLING		<i>See "Bear-proofing your Trash" Fact Sheet</i>
Situation	Ways to Bear-proof	
Curbside Pick-up	<input type="checkbox"/> Only put trash out the morning of pick-up	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring cans back inside before dark	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disinfect cans regularly with ammonia or bleach cleaners (pine scent is ok – no fruity or lemon odors)	
Take to Dump	No change needed	
Community Dumpster	<input type="checkbox"/> Is it bear-resistant?	
Storing between pick-ups or trips to dump	<input type="checkbox"/> Bear-proof container outside	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bear-proof enclosure outside	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside your home or a sturdy, locked building	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Freeze smelly garbage	

Bears are attracted to odors of all kinds. Human garbage smells great to a bear and is loaded with easy to access calories. Keeping bears away from trash cans prevents many serious problems for people and bears.

FEEDING BIRDS		<i>See "Attracting Birds, Not Bears" Fact Sheet</i>
Situation	Ways to Bear-proof	
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't feed birds at all	No change needed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Feed birds only while bears are denning (<i>Nov.-March</i>)	No change needed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Feed birds while bears are active (<i>April – October, not advised</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring all feeders in every night before dark and clean-up any fallen seeds, hulls, sugar water, etc.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hang feeders out of reach – 10 feet off the ground and 10 feet from anything bears can climb	
Songbirds (seed or suet)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean up seeds/hulls daily	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use hull-less seed or choose quality seed without millet	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Replace feeders with a small bird bath or water feature	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant flowers/plants that attract songbirds	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hang birdhouses or install nest boxes	

	Birdseed Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside your home or airtight, bear-proof containers (plastic totes and deck boxes are not bear-proof)
	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
	Hummingbirds	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant flowers that attract hummingbirds
		<input type="checkbox"/> Use hanging baskets with flowers that attract hummingbirds

Birdfeeders are full of high-calorie food bears love and they provide lots of energy for very little effort. Some studies show over 80% of human-bear conflicts can be traced back to a bear's first encounter with a birdfeeder.

ACCESS TO YOUR HOME: Can a bear easily walk into your home? Break in? Most “break-ins” are the result of a bear entering through an open door or window. See “*Bear-proofing your Home*” Fact Sheet

	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
DOORS	Lever or Push-style Doors	<input type="checkbox"/> Doors are locked at all times when bears are active
		<input type="checkbox"/> Replace lever knobs with round door knobs
	Sliding Doors	<input type="checkbox"/> Close and lock door, not just screen, at night and when you are away from home
	Doors with Round Knobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Though more secure, still should be locked at night and when you leave home, especially glass-paneled doors
	Pet doors	<input type="checkbox"/> One-way, radio-activated, or locked from bedtime to morning
WINDOWS	Ground Floor Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Windows closed and locked at night and when away from home
		<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen windows have curtains or shades drawn at night
		<input type="checkbox"/> Decorative grates installed
	Second/third Floor Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree limbs trimmed to keep bears gaining access or treat as ground floor window
		<input type="checkbox"/> Windows with deck or overhanging roof access – treat as ground floor window
		<input type="checkbox"/> Never leave anything that smells near windows
OTHER		<input type="checkbox"/> Play talk radio when not at home and/or utilize other deterrents (see “ <i>Deterrents</i> ” Fact Sheet)

OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
	Garage/Storage Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Close doors at all times when not in immediate area <input type="checkbox"/> Lock doors and windows at night and when leaving your property <input type="checkbox"/> Replace latch-style locks/lever handles with round door knobs and sturdy locks <input type="checkbox"/> Replace single-pane windows with double pane or install grates <input type="checkbox"/> Block potential denning sites under decks and buildings
	Refrigerator/Freezer	<input type="checkbox"/> Relocate attractants and food of any type, including canned goods, to a secure area of house; a sturdy, locked building; or bear-proof garage <input type="checkbox"/> Replace panel doors with solid wood or metal doors
	Barbecue Grills	<input type="checkbox"/> Burn-off food residue and clean grease can after each use <input type="checkbox"/> Store inside a sturdy, locked building (except propane)
	Hot Tub Covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Use an aluminum cover or sprinkle cover with garden lime (or any alkali) and then place a tarpaulin cover over it
	Petroleum Products (like gas, oil, grease)	<input type="checkbox"/> Safely store in locked building or in airtight, bear-proof containers
	Citronella Products	<input type="checkbox"/> Avoid citronella products, as they can attract bears

VEHICLES

	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
	Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Park inside sturdy garage that is locked at night
	Outside/Car Port	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior is kept clean; never leave food, packages or coolers inside or in the trunk; and only use unscented or pine-scented air fresheners

PETS

	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
	Supervision	<input type="checkbox"/> Cats are indoors at all times; dogs are supervised when outside, especially at night
	Feed pets inside	No change needed
	Feed pets outside (<i>not advised</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring pet dishes in every night and keep area clean and free of food (placing on a rubber mat can make this easier)

	Pet Food Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Store pet food inside a sturdy, locked building in airtight containers (plastic totes and deck boxes are not bear-proof)
GARDENS AND LANDSCAPING		
	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
	Berry bushes, fruit-bearing trees, and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove fruit trees/berry bushes if near home
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pick fruit before it ripens and pick up all fallen fruit immediately
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pick garden vegetables as they ripen and avoid planting potatoes and root vegetables
		<input type="checkbox"/> Avoid using blood meal and fish fertilizer in gardens
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protect single fruit trees and vegetable gardens with properly installed electric fencing
		<input type="checkbox"/> Install motion-sensitive outdoor lighting
	Compost	<input type="checkbox"/> Bear-proof enclosure
		<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosure with electric fencing
		<input type="checkbox"/> Never compost meat, fish, oil, grease or dairy products
Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawns mowed and weeded (dandelions, clover and grasses are natural food for bears)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep little brush (shrubs, bushes, tall grasses, etc.) around house and walkways (bears could use as cover)	
LIVESTOCK		
	Situation	Ways to Bear-proof
	Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Lock livestock inside a sturdy barn or electric fenced enclosure at night (<i>Advised</i>)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Use guardian animals (e.g. dogs) to protect livestock
	Breeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals about to give birth held in a secure enclosure or protected by an electric fence
		<input type="checkbox"/> Remove afterbirth and store as you would garbage (see "Trash & Recycling" section) until you can dispose of it
		<input type="checkbox"/> Keep young animals in protected area
	Deceased Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove dead livestock once cause of death has been investigated and loss has been documented for insurance purposes; don't bury, as bears will locate and dig up