

## HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT:

1. Do not store food or garbage in old refrigerators or freezers. Store in airtight or bear-proof refuse containers.
2. Store garbage cans in a secure place such as a garage or a bear-proof shed, not by the house. Use plastic bags inside garbage cans to help hide odours. Grease, fat, bacon and other meats should be disposed of in sealed containers.
3. Clean garbage cans and other refuse containers frequently with diluted ammonia, bleach or Lysol mixtures. Place camphor disks in garbage cans to mask food odours. Mothballs, air fresheners, Lysol and ammonia-soaked rags may also work.
4. Rinse all containers before disposing and recycling.
5. Turn off kitchen exhaust fans that have vents to the outside when they're not in use. Make sure the vent screen is cleaned regularly.
6. Clean the outside end of your drain if you do not have a holding tank to contain flushed food particles in dishwasher.
7. Do not leave dirty diapers or diaper pails outside.



**For additional information on bear proofing, electric fencing and what to do when you encounter a bear, visit our Web site at [www.gov.mb.ca/blackbear](http://www.gov.mb.ca/blackbear)**

If bears make the place where you live or spend your vacation unsafe, contact your nearest Manitoba Conservation office for assistance.

**Your local Manitoba Conservation District office telephone number is:**

In an emergency, call the local RCMP office.

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If you are forced to kill a bear to defend yourself or your property, you are required to report the killing to a Natural Resource officer within 10 days.

## REMOVING THE ATTRACTANT REMOVES THE BEARS

### BE "BEAR SMART" – KEEP SAFE IN BEAR COUNTRY

**B**lack bears have big appetites and their behaviour is driven by their search for food. The most effective way to avoid unwanted black bears is to practise prevention. Once a black bear gets used to eating food associated with humans, it usually becomes a problem animal that has to be relocated or destroyed.

Items or odours that attract bears are called attractants. If you are having problems with black bears, you can play an important role in discouraging a bear from becoming a problem or a danger by removing what attracts bears.

The best way to avoid bear problems is not to attract them in the first place.

Please be aware:

- Manitoba Conservation does not condone the feeding of wildlife, especially bears.
- Natural Resource Officers may order any person to stop placing attractants or remove attractants they have already placed, if the attractant could cause a risk for people or animals. Failing to comply with an order issued by a Natural Resource Officer is an offence under The Wildlife Act.

If you are having problems with bears, following these tips can help make your location less attractive to bears.

## GENERAL ATTRACTANTS:

**BARBECUES** – If not maintained properly, barbecues can attract bears. Replace lava rocks with ceramic bricks for easier cleaning. Remove grease cans from gas and charcoal grills after every use. Turn the grill on "high" for several minutes to burn off food residue and grease. Clean barbecue pits and grills thoroughly with an ammonia-based cleaner to mask the smells before leaving them outside. When not in use, wrap barbecues in plastic and store them inside a secured garage or shed.

**BIRDFEED** – Remove all bird feeders from April through November. Birds have ample natural food in the summer and do not need to be fed. When food is scarce, bears will choose bird food over natural food. In cottage country, bird feeding accounts for over one third of all bear nuisance problems. Do not leave any food out to attract wildlife.

**BURNING** – **Do not burn garbage.** The remains of the fire may attract bears.

**COMPOSTING** – Do not compost unless you can be certain the location is away from tree cover and will not act as an attractant. If composting plant matter, make sure you practise hot composting. Do not compost meat, fish, fruit, vegetable, grease, oil, or dairy products outdoors. If you must do it, consider indoor worm composting. For details see [www.mastercomposter.com](http://www.mastercomposter.com).

**FRUIT TREES** – Fruit-bearing trees (such as apples, plums, cherries, oaks) are a natural attractant, especially in the early fall. Bears will travel great distances to feed on fruit trees. If you do not want bears feeding on your property, consider removing all fruit trees and replacing them with native, non-fruit-bearing trees. Pick all ripened fruit off trees and off the ground each morning and evening.

**GARDENS** – Avoid planting vegetable gardens. If you still wish to have a garden, fruit trees, beehives or orchard, install a proper electric fence. Remove vegetables as they mature and do not use blood meal or fish-based products to fertilize your lawn or garden. Keep your lawn mowed and weeded. Grass and dandelions in flower may attract bears.

**ODOURS** – With the exception of ammonia, Lysol, camphor and other such strong smells, everything smells like potential food to a bear, including the aromas from cooking, baking or composting.

**PET FOOD** – Do not feed family pets outside. An empty dish left outside will have the leftovers and the scent of food. Store animal food indoors in airtight containers.

## CAMPSITE MAINTENANCE:

1. Keep your campsite clean and put everything away.
2. Do not cook, eat or store food in your tent. Do not burn food scraps or fat in an open fire.
3. If you have a vehicle, keep all food stored and out of view in the vehicle.
4. Backwoods users should store food and unwashed utensils in airtight storage containers to minimize odours.
5. Suspend food and clothing that smells of cooking out of the reach of a bear, at least four meters (15 feet) off the ground in between two trees and well away from your campsite.
6. Do not dispose of dishwater around or near your campsite.
7. Do not use cosmetics with strong fragrances and do not keep products like perfumes, deodorants or toothpaste in your tent.