

Be Bear Smart

Black bears have an extraordinary sense of smell and can be attracted to many things at your home, bringing bears right to your doorstep. Having bears around increases both the risk of damage to your property and the odds of something unfortunate happening. Wildlife officers often have little choice in dealing with “nuisance” animals that we help create. **Please don't let your trash, bird feeders or chickens kill a bear.**

- Keep trash in a bear-resistant trash container or secure structure. Set out the morning of collection only. Occasionally clean container with bleach and water.
- It's best to remove bird feeders from March thru November. At least, make them inaccessible to bears, bring in at night and clean up fallen seed.
- Keep bear-accessible windows and doors closed and locked. Replace lever-style door handles with round knobs.
- Never leave food or beverages in vehicles and keep doors and windows closed and locked.
- Store grain, bird seed, pet food in a bear-resistant container or secure structure.
- Electric fencing is highly effective for county residents in protecting fruit trees, chickens, bees, livestock, gardens and more.
- Feed pets indoors.
- Empty grease trap and clean outdoor grill after use.
- Harvest fruit before it ripens and remove fallen fruit from the ground. Find someone to harvest excess fruit.
- Think green when composting. Do not add meat, dairy, kitchen scraps, rind, fruit or vegetables.
- Do not allow bears to become comfortable being at your home or property.

Report Bear and Trash Incidents

Central Dispatch: 970-385-2900

Report Problematic Bears

Colorado Parks & Wildlife: 970-247-0855 or 911

Report Bear Sightings & Incidents

Colorado Parks & Wildlife: 970-247-0855

Bear Smart Durango: www.bearsmartdurango.org

Learn more about best practices in being
Bear Smart at: www.bearsmartdurango.org

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