

BE BEAR SMART!



BLACK BEARS HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY SENSE OF SMELL AND CAN BE ATTRACTED TO MANY THINGS ON YOUR PROPERTY. IF BEARS ARE FINDING HUMAN FOODS THEY WILL LINGER AND ONCE A BEAR LEARNS UNWANTED BEHAVIOR IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE THAT BEHAVIOR - MANY TIMES LEADING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE AND THE DEATH OF A BEAR.

Keep trash in a secure structure or bear-resistant trash container. Set out only the morning of collection, never the night before. Occasionally clean trash container with bleach and water to remove odor.

It is best to remove bird feeders from March thru November. At the very least make feeders inaccessible to bears and clean up any fallen seed. Bears can show up day or night, so bringing in feeders in at night only reduces the chance of a bear coming around.

Keep all bear-accessible windows and doors closed and locked, including garage doors. Replace lever-style handles with round knobs.

Never leave food, beverages, pet food, trash or odorous items in vehicles.

Electric fencing is highly effective in deterring bears from chickens, beehives, fruit trees, compost, livestock and more.

Clean barbecue grill, empty grease trap and store.

Store bird seed, pet and livestock feed in a bear-resistant container or secure structure.

Think green when composting. Do not add meat, dairy, kitchen scraps, fruit or vegetables to compost.

Feed pets indoors.

Remove fruit from trees before it ripens and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

Don't allow bears to become comfortable being in yards.



ALSO: Immediately report aggressive bears to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) at 247-0855. If after hours call 911 - **emergencies only**. Report bear and trash incidents by calling Central Dispatch at 385-2900. Report bear sightings to either CPW or Bear Smart Durango (online form on website or bp@frontier.net). For more information, visit bearsmartdurango.org.