

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 BEARS LEARN UNWANTED BEHAVIOR IT IS MOST DIFFICULT CHANGING THEIR BEHAVIOR - MANY TIMES LEADING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE AND THE DEATH OF A BEAR.

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

Remove bird feeders from April 1 - December 1. Attract birds with native plants, hanging flower baskets and bird baths. Bears can show up day or night, so bringing in feeders in at night only somewhat reduces the chance of a bear visit.

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 pet and livestock feed, fruit and more 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 promptly by calling City Code (city) at 375-4930 or Central Dispatch (county) 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.