



# How to keep bears out of your yard...



*because garbage kills bears*



## Be bear aware in spring and early summer

Throughout most of the spring and early summer, bears use more energy than they get from the food they eat. They spend much of their time foraging. With a keen sense of smell, this search can lead them into contact with people.

Not all things that a bear smells will be food but all things that smell may attract the attention of a foraging bear. When you are evaluating your home, yard, or camp for bear foods, you must think in terms of what might attract them to you, not necessarily what they can eat.



## Spoiled bears quickly become dangerous bears

Every year, dozens of bears have to be killed because they get into trouble with people.

It starts innocently with a bear foraging in search of food. It comes across an odor it has not smelled before and decides to investigate. If it succeeds in getting an easy meal from some improperly stored garbage or food, it is almost certain to return or seek this same food source elsewhere.

Soon it is accustomed to this pattern, and doesn't hesitate to break open a shed door to seek food. Barking dogs and people shouting are ignored. Conservation Officers must now hunt this bear because it now associates people with food and has become a spoiled and dangerous bear.

*Don't be responsible for this scenario happening in your neighborhood!*



## Avoid these bear attractants

Some of the more common items that may attract a bear to your yard:

- Garbage
- Improperly stored foods
- Improperly burned garbage
- Compost
- Propane
- Barbecues
- Animal waste
- Pet foods & bird seed
- Oils
- Fertilizers (fish oil)

Get rid of garbage quickly.

## Report problem bears 1-800-661-0525

In addition to reporting fish, wildlife and environmental violators, use the TIP number to report sightings of potential problem bears.

### To find out more

For more information on bears and attractants, you can contact the Department of Environment at 667-5221.

