

# Bear Aware Checklist



Because Anchorage is bear country, we all need to be aware of bears. Some of us live in neighborhoods where bears are commonly seen. In those bear areas, it is especially important when bears are awake (April-November) to keep garbage and other bear attractants out of reach of bears. **Directions:** Identify items around your home that might attract bears. If you answer “yes” to any questions below, you have some work to do! Refer to the solution sheet on the back to figure out how you can make your home and neighborhood safer.

## Garbage

•Is there any trash outside your house, garage or shed that is not stored in a bear-resistant container?  YES  NO

## Bird Seed

•Are there any bird feeders out during the summer months when bears are awake? Also, are there any leftover seeds on the ground?  YES  NO

## Pets and other animals

•Is there any pet food stored outside where bears might smell it?  YES  NO

•Do you have any livestock on your property (chickens, ducks, goats, horses, beehives) that are not protected from bears by an electric fence?  YES  NO

## Fish

•Do you have any fishy-smelling gear (nets, lines, coolers) or fish cleaning tables outside your home?  YES  NO

•Do you keep fish waste outside your home or outside in garbage cans (non bear-resistant)?  YES  NO

## Freezers, Smokers and BBQs

•Do you have any freezers outside that might provide easy access to bears?  YES  NO

•Does your BBQ have leftover food ore grease on it?  YES  NO

•Do you leave your smoker outside unattended?  YES  NO

## Compost

•Do you have a compost pile on your property that has smelly items in it that might attract bears?  YES  NO



Created by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Anchorage Bear Committee



# Bear Aware Checklist: *Solution Sheet*

## What **YOU** do really matters!

### **Garbage:**

Secure your garbage so bears can't get to it. Keep it inside, in a bear-resistant container, in a reinforced shed or garage, or dispose of waste immediately. Remember, if a bear gets into your trash you can be fined. Bear-resistant containers are available for rent from Alaska Waste. (Call 907-563-3717 for rates or service information).

### **Bird Seed:**

Don't feed birds during active bear season (April 15 to October 31). Clean up spilled bird seed.

### **Pets and other animals:**

Install electric fences to keep bears out of animal pens, corrals, chicken coops, rabbit hutches and beehives. Store pet and livestock food out of reach of bears.

### **Fish:**

If you clean your fish at home, keep all fish waste in a freezer out of reach of bears until garbage pick-up. You can also take your fish waste straight to the transfer station or landfill. Store fish nets, tackle and line indoors, in a garage, or otherwise out of the reach of bears.

### **BBQs and Smokers:**

Clean BBQ grills thoroughly after grilling. If possible, store grill inside the garage or shed when not in use. Smoking fish can attract bears. Do not leave your smoker unattended.

### **Compost:**

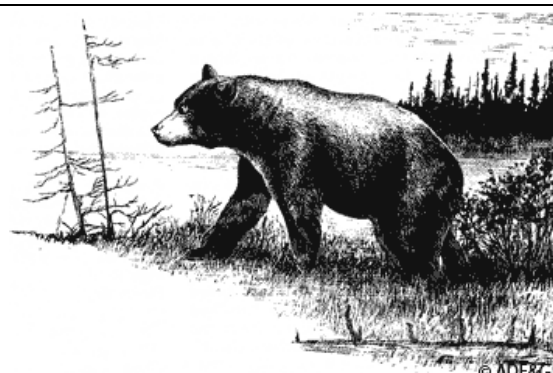
Composting odors can attract bears. If you live in area where bears are commonly seen, protect your compost pile with an electric fence. Do not put fish waste or smelly food scraps in your compost pile. Chop items well.

### **It takes a community!**

Handling attractants responsibly around your home will help reduce conflicts with bears and other wildlife. By acting responsibly, you can help set an example for others about how to life safely with wildlife in our community.

**Did you find anything that needed to be corrected?**

**If so, what will you do?**



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