

Bear Safety Tips

Be alert:

- Watch for bears when they are active between May and October, but especially during August and September.
- If you live in a mild area such as Vancouver Island or the Lower Mainland, bears may be active all year.

Be careful:

- Do not feed bears.
- Keep outdoor storage containers, such as those for pet foods and livestock feed, air-tight and odour free. Use bear-resistant containers whenever possible, or better still, keep supplies indoors.
- Do not leave garbage, pet food or livestock feed in the back of pickup trucks, even under canopies. Canopies are not bear-resistant containers.
- Dogs may be effective at warning you if a bear is nearby, but make sure all dogs are restrained or in a fenced yard.
- Locate compost heaps, livestock, beehives, and other bear food sources away from forests, thickets and natural pathways used by bears.
- Enclose fruit trees, livestock, or beehives with strong chain-link or electric fencing.
- Thin the bush on your property or create a break in natural bear pathways that lead to your house.

Garbage:

- Keep garbage containers indoors - inside a locked shed, garage, or basement until pick-up day.
- Dispose of garbage regularly - don't stockpile it or it will begin to smell and attract bears.
- Never leave fish parts, meat bones, or other meat byproducts where a bear's sensitive nose can find them - keep them in your freezer until you can dispose of them properly.

Compost:

- Do not put meat byproducts, fish, or fruit into your compost.
- Sprinkle your compost with lime. Lime aids the composting process, and also reduces the smell, discouraging bears.

Barbecues:

- Be watchful at barbecues. The smell from cooking meat attracts bears.
- Store barbecues inside.
- Wash grills immediately after use. The smell of an uncleaned grill can attract bears even if it is stored.

Fruit trees:

- Pick fruit daily as it ripens; don't allow it to fall.
- Pick the fruit before it ripens if you don't intend to use it right away.