



# Bear in Mind...



You live in a hotspot community for black bear activity!

The North Shore Black Bear Society supports responsible coexistence through education.

這份市政通告很重要，請找人翻譯。 이것은 시청에서 보내는 중요한 통지입니다. 다른 사람에게 번역을 부탁하여 읽으십시오. لطفاً از کسی بخواهید که آنرا ترجمه کند. بن یک اطلاعیه مهم شهری است.



Black bears live, rest and raise cubs in the forest; however, it is common for them to pass through neighbourhoods. Coexistence with these peaceful animals is possible if we learn their reasons for being in urban areas and if we take steps to minimize food opportunities around homes. The vulnerable population (females and their cubs, young, old or injured bears) seek safety from dominant male bears by occupying areas closer to people. Increased human and dog activity allows little time for bears to forage and rest without interruption in their home. Residents living close to forests, parks and trails may see increased daytime activity, as bears seek quiet gardens to avoid people and pets. Bears are most active from March to late December; daytime activity is normal. We have a responsibility to make sure we are not inviting bears to our home. Bears that find food from humans are often killed – including cubs. Relocation is rarely an option, and it is not the solution. If a bear is removed from an area, another will soon take their place.

With a few simple actions, we can dramatically reduce a bear's reason for staying close to homes. These are some of the most frequently reported bear attractants and some preventative practises:

- **Garbage and organics:** Keep in a secure location (closed garage, sturdy and locked enclosure/shed) at all times, unless out for collection. Lockable carts are bear-resistant, *not* bear-proof. Wrap organics in newspaper and freeze odorous food scraps to reduce smell and keep carts clean. Wash carts regularly with a water and vinegar solution. If you have a **carport**, we advise investing in a secure enclosure or using bungee cords to attach bins/carts to a secure structure to prevent them from being tipped (which is typically how bears gain access). Garbage, organics and recyclables are not permitted at curbside until the very morning of collection, **as per bylaw in the District of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver**. Visit your municipal website for specific set-out instructions. Download the collection schedule app to receive important service alerts and reminders.
- **Fruit trees:** Pick all fruit early, allow to ripen inside. Collect fallen fruit daily and store in a secure area. Install and maintain electric fencing. If you cannot commit to managing fruit trees, we strongly encourage removing them.
- **Bird seed, suet and hummingbird feeders:** Black bears are agile climbers with a long reach; it is almost impossible to hang a feeder they cannot access. Plant to encourage birds or feed very small amounts in the late winter months only when you are home to enjoy the birds. Bears are active during the day - bringing feeders in at night is not the solution.
- **Recycling:** Wash milk jugs, food containers, cans and jars. Rinse beverage bottles and cans. Store recyclables in a secure area until collection morning. Find out more at: [recyclebc.ca](http://recyclebc.ca).
- **Garage doors:** Bears may enter an open garage out of curiosity or in search of food or shelter. Keep garage doors closed at all times, unless you are in the immediate area.
- **Beehives and backyard chickens:** Install and maintain electric fencing. Keep feed in a secure area. A permit, inspection and electric fencing may be mandatory. Visit your municipal website for further information.
- **Other attractants:** Pet food. Dirty BBQ grills and grease traps. Outdoor fridges and freezers. Petroleum products.
- **Vehicles:** Keep vehicles free of all food and garbage. Keep windows closed and all doors locked. If you notice a bear on your property or close to your vehicle, trigger the vehicle's alarm.
- **If a bear is spending time on your property:** Remove and secure any food sources. Bears return to areas where they have been rewarded; ensure all attractants are removed and they will learn to change their route. It is important that we set boundaries and teach bears not to become comfortable on our properties. If you notice a bear, go to a **safe place** (deck/open window), make eye contact and use a firm tone. Be persistent and tell the bear to move on. Bears understand tone, keep encouraging them to leave.

**Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law.**

Bears can be active year-round, especially if they have access to unnatural foods. Never approach a bear intentionally.

- Use your voice to alert wildlife of human presence when travelling on trails and if travelling anywhere at night.
- If you encounter a bear: stay calm, speak to them in a calm voice (in any language) and slowly back away.
- Off-leash dogs are involved in many negative encounters between humans and wildlife. We advise leashing dogs on trails. Always adhere to leash requirements, which are in place to protect people, pets and wildlife.



Help us to target education and collect valuable data by reporting all North Shore bear sightings to us:

[northshorebears.com](http://northshorebears.com) [nsbbsociety@gmail.com](mailto:nsbbsociety@gmail.com) call or text 604 317 4911