

Wildlife-safe property checklist

- Garbage, recycling and compost are stored indoors or in a bear-proof container.
- Lawns are mowed and weeded.
- Native and non-native plants that bears eat are removed from high-human use areas and playgrounds. Brush close to homes or along walkways is removed.
- Fruit trees or berry bushes are removed or have electric fencing around them and no fallen fruit are left on the ground.
- Vegetable gardens are fenced with electric fencing, and vegetables are harvested as soon as they ripen; or vegetable gardens are replaced with flower gardens.
- Bird feeders are stored away March-November or are bear-proof. Birdseed is stored securely indoors.
- Pets are fed inside and their food is stored indoors. Dog bones are not lying around the yard. Cats and other small pets are kept indoors when unsupervised.
- BBQ is clean and all grease and food residues are removed after each use. BBQ, meat or fish dryers and smokers are stored indoors or in a secure shed.
- Freezers and all food are kept in your house or in a secure, locked shed.
- Chicken coops have electric fencing around them to protect the birds from bears.
- Windows and other entrances are secure with round door knobs and dead bolts.
- Potential den sites like crawl spaces under decks and buildings are blocked.
- No trash, groceries, animal feed, coolers or any smelly items are stored in your vehicle or in the back of a pick-up truck. We're serious. They can and will break in if they want what's in your vehicle.
- Refrigerators, hot tub covers, bicycle or snowmobile seats, fiberglass insulation are not accessible to bears or are replaced with non-formic acid alternatives, or are sprinkled with lime.
- Petroleum products are stored in an area where bears cannot access them.
- Actively encourage your neighbours to remove and/or secure attractants.