

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Bear Facts for Homeowners

Garbage Management



Human garbage is attractive to black bears. When bears get into people's garbage, they may be encouraged to return to the location because of the food reward.

Bears that associate people with food may have to be trapped or destroyed.

Be a good neighbor by following these tips.

- Use certified bear-resistant garbage containers and keep the container outdoors if you live in an area frequented by black bears. Certified containers offer the best protection.
- In areas less frequented by bears, store all garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids and place them within a secure building, such as in the basement. *Note: On rare occasions, bears have tried to enter buildings in search of food, so use caution.*
- Use plastic bag liners in garbage cans to help reduce odors.



Bear-Resistant Trash Containers



- Wash trash containers with a disinfectant solution at least once a week to eliminate odors. Examples of disinfectant solution include hot water and chlorine bleach or ammonia.
- Put out garbage on collection day, not the night before.
- Use certified bear-resistant community dumpsters in housing developments and gated communities.

Use Certified Bear-Resistant Trash Containers

- Store recycling containers in a secure building and only put them outdoors on the day of pick up. Empty recyclables, like beverage cans, bottles and food containers can attract bears.
- Visit the following link to find contact information for companies that make bear-resistant trash containers.

[www.njfishandwildlife.com/bearcont.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/bearcont.htm)



Bear-Resistant Dumpster