

BearWise Lodging



SAFETY TIPS



How to Be a BearWise Host

Educating guests and implementing BearWise practices is the best way to keep people and property safe and bears wild. Bears in search of food can destroy trash containers, break into vehicles and lodging, and frighten guests and staff. Follow these tips to help prevent conflicts with bears.

Educate Guests & Staff

- Provide BearWise materials before guests arrive and during their stay. Download materials at [BearWise.org/Store](https://www.bearwise.org/store).
- Post **Be BearWise Guest Checklist** (see next page) in common areas and in rooms.
- Remind guests to Be BearWise by **posting room signs**:
 - Never leave food, trash or scented items in vehicles.
 - Don't leave food or coolers unattended.
 - Throw food scraps/grease in the trash, not "the woods."
- If you allow pets: require leashes when dogs are outside; post the **Dogs + Bears = Trouble** poster; refer to checklist (next page) for more safety precautions.
- Do tell guests about recent bear activity and any special precautions. Don't tell guests about local hot-spots where bears can be seen due to human-provided attractants.

Don't Feed the Wildlife

Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach people and places looking for more.

- Birdseed and nectar feeders attract bears. See our bulletin **Attract Birds, Not Bears** for tips on going feeder-free.
- Please don't put out food to attract wildlife. You'll attract bears, skunks, snakes and other unwelcome critters.



PHOTO: LYNN BYSTROM

Provide Bear-Resistant Containers

Garbage smells delicious to a bear. Consistent use of bear-resistant containers (BRCs) is the most effective way to keep bears out of the trash and discourage them from exploring.

Where to find BRCs: Ask your waste services provider, purchase your own, or retrofit your containers (verify that your trash hauler can service BRCs). Find more resources online at [BearWise.org/Keep-Bears-Out/](https://www.bearwise.org/keep-bears-out/).

Other Options: Store trash inside an electric fence, bear-resistant enclosure or a sturdy, locked building. Educate guests on how to access, so they don't leave trash outside.

- **Never let unsecured trash sit outside.**
- **Always latch / lock trash containers**, even during the day. Use BearWise Stash & Latch stickers to remind guests.

Inspect the Property

- Make sure windows and doors close and lock securely; bears can easily open unlocked French and lever-style doors.
- Bears are nimble climbers. Trim tree limbs that provide easy access (for a bear) to second-floor decks or windows.
- Avoid planting—or remove—natural bear foods, such as fruit or nut-bearing trees or bushes.
- Electric deterrents are very effective at securing areas or places from bears (post clear usage instructions for guests). Learn more at [BearWise.org](https://www.bearwise.org) and download our **Electric Fences Keep Bears Out** bulletin.

Remind guests that not following BearWise advice can have serious consequences for them, all the guests who come after them, and the bears.

Bears are highly intelligent and quickly learn from experiences. Bears that are rewarded for coming around usually come back. Learn about coexisting with black bears at [BearWise.org](https://www.bearwise.org).

