



**Tips for being Garden Smart**

Reduce the risk of wildlife and other animals being tempted to loiter in your yard:

**Make it a Habit** - Keep garbage secure. Only put it out on the morning of collection day. Don't encourage bears and critters to scavenge while you are asleep.

**Go Electric** - A simple electric fence can be used very effectively to deter bears and other wildlife from accessing your composter and fruit trees. Some are easily movable and there are many solar options on the market.

**Work Together** - Collaborate with neighbours to insure that your immediate neighbourhood follows preventative measures to reduce conflict with wildlife.



**The Bear Facts**

- Bears require up to 20,000 calories a day (approximately 40 hamburgers)
- Bears have a nose 5 times better than a bloodhound. They can smell a peanut butter sandwich over a kilometer away
- About 5% of reported conflict calls are about bears damaging composters
- Over 85% are calls about bears accessing garbage and birdfeeders
- Once they find a good source of food, they will return again and again

For more information on reducing Human—Wildlife conflict visit:

**WildSafeBC:** [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

**RDOS web site:** <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/wildsafe-bc-bear-aware/>

**RDOS Living With Wildlife In BC:**  
<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/wildsafe-bc-bear-aware/living-with-wildlife-in-bc/>



A rodent's dream home and bear attractant

For more information contact RDOS  
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**Solid Waste Department**

**Composting With Care In Bear Country**



## Garden Smart - With Wildlife in Mind

On-site backyard composting is the most effective and environmentally-friendly way to manage the raw vegetable, yard waste, and trimmings around your home. Your compost will not be a wildlife or bear attractant if it is installed, maintained and managed responsibly.

### The 5 Step Program

#### 1 Proper installation:

- Install 1/2" x 1/2" wire mesh (called hardware cloth) underneath the compost unit. Secure it well with the plastic screws provided
- Install in the right location, out of direct sun and keep the lid closed



#### 2 Go BIG on BROWNS:

- Add lots and lots of leaves as they naturally break down into compost and assist with odour control
- Leaves, small sticks and brown materials can be added each time you place waste into the compost
- Keep bags of leaves on-hand all year round



#### 3 Bury Fruits and Vegetables

- Place uncooked fruits and vegetables under the leaves. Either lift the leaves and bury the waste or add more on top
- Burying helps mitigate fruit flies

NO cooked food, meat, fish breads, dairy products or feces should be put in your composter. They create an attractive smelly mess for unwanted critters and problems for the composting process.



#### 4 Add Oxygen - Poke It, Stir It

- Frequent stirring or poking is necessary to encourage oxygen loving bacteria to thrive
- The bacteria and bugs breaking down your food waste need air to breathe
- A broken, bladeless hockey stick or modified aeration tool work great

#### 5 Add more H<sub>2</sub>O as the Okanagan is much drier than most places

- Add water on a regular basis to speed up the composting process and avoid harbouring rodents (bears and coyotes love rodents)

A Black bear having fun with a rotary composter



### What to Compost

#### Greens:

- Green plant trimmings
- Raw fruit and vegetable trimmings
- Coffee grounds/tea bags
- Weeds that have not gone to seed

#### Browns:

- Dry fallen leaves (hardwood is the best)
- Straw (moderation)/cornstalks
- Newsprint (torn into pieces)
- Tissue or kraft paper (torn into pieces)
- Coffee filters

#### Other Acceptable Materials

- Dryer lint
- Floor sweepings
- Rinsed and crushed egg shells

Bears do not like 'finished' compost. They are drawn to composters that are not working correctly as they usually house rodents. Rodents are a high quality food packet for a bear.