



The **North Shore Black Bear Society** is providing tips to help reduce attractants that bring wildlife into residential areas in the **District of North Vancouver**. Bears remember where they get food rewards, so it is important to follow these recommendations to prevent issues.

- **Wash carts and bins with vinegar** to reduce any odours; a pine-scented cleaner such as PineSol (original scent, not lavender or other scents) may act as a deterrent when sprayed inside, outside and around the carts and in present and previous storage areas.
- **Put all food scraps** in the organics cart. **Freeze all meat & fish scraps & grease** until the morning of collection; wrap all other foods in newspaper or paper bags and layer with yard trimmings in the organics cart. Keep as many food scraps as possible inside until the morning of collection.
- **Place washed wrappings/containers** in the garbage or recycling bin. **Freeze odorous wrappings** and place in the garbage bin on the morning of collection.
- **Wash your recyclables** in hot soapy water.
- **Remove rodent bait boxes**. These are scented like food: bears break them open and eat the poison inside.
- **Place diapers** in the garbage cart on the morning of collection – and flush the solids first.
- **Store carts in an enclosed shed or garage or secure upright to make more difficult to tip.**

NOTE: There should be no attractants in the garbage cart. This is important because the unlocked garbage cart is emptied later in the day on collection day.

Of course, there should be no bird feeders, outside fridges or freezers, pet food, unclean bbqs, ripe unpicked fruit, or fallen fruit on your property. Keep pumpkins indoors; bring jack o lanterns in at the end of Halloween evening.

When the carts are empty after collection, it is a good time to give them a thorough scrub with a vinegar solution. Even empty carts can be odorous, especially to a bear that has a sense of smell 2000 times better than humans!

Final recommendations: **Keep ground floor doors, windows and garages closed** unless someone is there to monitor them, especially if you know a bear has been sighted in the area. **Keep cars empty of food** or perfumed items, with doors locked and windows fully closed. Bears may enter if they smell food, and they will often pay with their lives for following their noses or being naturally curious.

For damaged carts in the District of North Van, please request a free repair online at DNV.org/repairs

We live in bear country and have responsibilities. Please report attractants or sightings and learn more about our North Shore wildlife at:

www.northshorebears.com/report/

Or leave a voice message or text message on our bear cell phone 604-317-4911