

Best Strategies for Trash Storage:

Keep your trash in an animal-resistant metal Garbage Can Enclosure (GCE), commonly called a Bear Box.

The photos below are examples only. IVGID does not recommend any particular manufacturer. Listed below are local installers.



Tahoe Bear Box Co. / Bear Saver
(530) 546-3154 / www.bearbox.org

Carson Valley Welding / No Bear Can
(775) 884-9353

Baker Bear Bins / (530) 587-1374

The Bear Guard Co. / (530) 581-2211
www.bearguardinfo.com

Brown Bear Box / (530) 587-2895
<http://www.brownbearbox.com>



Or - Keep your trash in an < animal-resistant cart.

Animal resistant poly-carts are available for purchase on the internet. They are less effective than a metal bear box. Carts have an estimated product life of 3 to 5 years only.



Other Options:

Store trash in a lockable building and place it curbside after 5 a.m. on the morning of pick-up. However, be advised, bears have broken into buildings for trash. If you are not here on service day, you can drop off 2 bags of garbage, plus recycling, for free, 7 days a week at the Incline Transfer Station at 1200 Sweetwater Road. Restrictions apply – call for info: (775) 831-2971. Open M–F: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Weekends: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (775) 833-6251.

Animal-Resistant Dumpsters:

LOCK THE DUMPSTER — every time!

Dumpsters have a metal lid and a locking system which should be kept secured at all times except for immediate use of the dumpster.

The photos below show how a dumpster should look when properly locked.



Dumpsters should be **LOCKED** with the **CARBINER/PADLOCK PLACED THROUGH THE HASP/HINGE or ATTACHED TO THE CHAIN WITH NO GAP** between the body and the lid !

In an Emergency: Call 911

**For more information
Trash Complaint Hotline:**

in Incline Village/C. Bay: (775) 832-1221

IVGID Waste Not Conservation Programs:

(775) 832-1284 / ivgid.org

Facebook: BEAR SMART (Incline Village)

BEAR League: savebears.org / (530) 525-PAWS

Get Bear Smart Society: BearSmart.com

NDOW: ndow.org / (775) 688-BEAR

Printed on recycled paper. Photos courtesy: Mark Smith, John Peltier, IVGID Waste Not, GCE manufacturers

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Bear Smart

Guide for Living in Bear Country



A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear!



Co-Existing with Bears

Black bears are native to Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada mountains. You may encounter a bear (even in town) because some bears have lost their fear of humans; they have become habituated to human presence, human food and garbage. Black bears are wild animals, but if you take precautions, your chances of being injured are extremely low; the chances of being killed by a domestic dogs, bees, or lightning are vastly greater. Black bears do not commonly attack, but they may bluff charge if stressed.

Bears cannot be relocated once they become human habituated. Bears are euthanized for accessing trash, damaging property or because they no longer fear people.



This bear was killed in Incline Village for being food habituated and for not displaying a fear of humans.

Bears are opportunistic omnivores, which means they will eat almost anything they can find. Unlike the bears' natural food sources, garbage is a dense, high-energy food source that is regularly replenished and available year-round. When bears are not encouraged to hibernate by dwindling natural food sources, they will stay active throughout the winter.

People have a responsibility to the wildlife whose habitat they are sharing. 95% of all human/bear conflict is attributed to improper storage of food or garbage.

Follow this checklist to help you 'bear-proof' your location:

- Most human/bear conflict can be mitigated with the correct use of animal-resistant metal bear boxes or locking poly carts for garbage. The right tool for trash storage in bear country can prevent damage later on.
- If you are not using a locking container, put your trash curbside after 5 a.m. only on the day of service, never before. Wash containers with ammonia regularly.
- Don't leave food, food wrappers, cups or trash in vehicles. Lock the vehicle and set the car alarm.
- Keep your home and garage doors closed, except for immediate use. A bear walking into an open garage to take food or garbage is preventable!
- Wash off all food residue from recyclables.
- Never approach, feed or attempt to touch bears or other wildlife.
- Close doors and windows when cooking.
- Do not use a bird feeder. Bird seed is a very powerful attractant.
- Clean the barbecue after each use.
- Always feed your pets indoors.
- Securely block access to potential hibernation sites such as crawl spaces under decks and buildings.
- Remove food and garbage from vacant properties. Consider installing 'hot wire' electric deterrents to prevent access.

If You Encounter A Bear

IN YOUR YARD OR NEIGHBORHOOD:

Make your home attractant-free. If there is nothing to eat, the bear will most likely wander off. Save yourself from a damaged garage door, home or car by following the checklist guidelines. Remove edible landscape plants. If you see a bear in your yard or neighborhood; do not run, this may stimulate the instinct to chase. Walk away slowly, but let the bear know this is YOUR territory and it doesn't belong there. When at a safe distance, make noise, yell at the bear, bang pots and pans, throw small rocks. Make the bear think you are a bigger bear than it is! Don't be afraid or act submissive. Never block the bear's exit route.

IN THE WOODS:

This is the bear's territory to share. Again, don't run and don't block the bear's path. Let the bear know you are there. Make eye contact but don't stare. Pick up small children who may run, and keep them calm. Appreciate the experience and move on with respect and self confidence.



Unsecured trash is a major attractant to animals. IVGID fines for trash non-compliance begin at \$500 and increase to \$999 per incident. Invest in a wildlife-resistant bear box, instead. Plus, you have the convenience of trash already being at the curb for service day. See other side for options.