

What to Compost:

Greens ✓

Fresh grass clippings
Plant trimmings
Fruit and vegetable scraps
Coffee grounds
Tea bags
Human hair
Animal fur
Manure

Browns ✓

Fallen leaves
Sawdust
Straw
Newspaper (torn into 1" strips and crumpled)
Tissue paper or kraft brown paper
Paper towels or napkins
Cardboard (toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, corrugated cardboard torn into small pieces)
Coffee filters
Dried grass clippings

Other Acceptable Materials ✓

Rinsed and pulverized eggshells
Small amounts of fireplace ash
Floor sweepings
Dryer lint

Unacceptable in Bear Country ✗

Meat
Fish
Bones
Grains, rice or pasta
Dairy
Grease or oil
Charcoal briquettes
Dog or cat feces and kitty litter (for health, not bear reasons)

GardenSmart Resources

Backyard Compost Bins
\$45 at the **North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot** - 29 Riverside Drive, North Vancouver (cheque or money order only) or visit us online at buyabin.northshorerecycling.ca.



Compost Hotline
604.736.2250

Report a Bear Sighting, Get Information or Book a Presentation
604.990.BEAR or visit northshorebears.com

Donate Surplus Fruit to:
Neighbours and friends
Edible Garden Project (ediblegardenproject.com)
Harvest Project (harvestproject.org)

Electric Fence Installation & Servicing Combined Property Services
604.984.2477

GardenSmart Workshops
A series of informative, practical and **free workshops** offered each year. Visit gardensmart.ca for details.

Natural Garden Parties
Personalized workshops for you and your neighbours. Visit gardensmart.ca for details.

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5 Simple Steps to Making Compost in Bear Country

www.gardensmart.ca
garden care that makes sense...

GardenSmart

composting with care in bear country

On-site backyard composting is the most effective and environmentally-friendly way to manage the organic 'waste' your home produces. Your compost will not be a bear attractant if it is maintained correctly and other attractants are managed responsibly.

Did you know... Bears require up to 20,000 calories per day before hibernation. That's equivalent to **40 hamburgers and 40 ice cream sundaes!** Once they find an easy food source they will keep returning to it. Don't let them discover food at your home!

STEP 1 Be Unattractive

Ensure that your yard does not provide easy, unnatural food sources for bears.

Bear attractants include:

- odorous garbage
- unwashed recycling
- fruit-bearing plants
- piled grass clippings
- bird feeders
- dirty barbecues
- accessible pet food
- poorly-maintained compost

It's good to know... Only 2% of bear sightings in 2008 involved a compost bin. Over 90% of bear sightings involved garbage or fruit. **It's up to you** to keep your property free of bear attractants and help keep black bears wild and in the forest.



STEP 2 Work Together

Collaborate with your neighbours to ensure that your immediate neighbourhood follows all the preventative measures to reduce human-bear conflicts.

STEP 3 Go Big on Brown

Maintain a healthy compost bin to prevent odours that can attract bears. The key to a healthy compost bin is **equal proportions of brown** materials and **green** materials. The bacteria that do the majority of work in your compost bin require nitrogen-rich **greens** and an equal or greater volume of carbon-rich **browns** (carbon-rich material) in order to create healthy, odourless compost.

Browns should be added with every single addition of kitchen scraps, covering the scraps completely in layers no more than 4 inches thick. You will need to collect **browns** (fallen leaves) in the autumn to have enough to last the year, or use other materials listed on the reverse.



Did you know... low quality household paper products, such as **tissue paper, egg cartons, paper towels, paper bags and cardboard rolls**, are a great source of browns for your compost bin!

STEP 4 Add Oxygen

Frequent aerating is necessary to encourage the oxygen-loving aerobic bacteria in your bin, especially at the compressed bottom of your heap. Lack of oxygen can result in an anaerobic, smelly compost bin, which is not acceptable in bear country. Aeration is best done with a "Wingdigger"-type tool or a strong straight stick. Poke holes all the way down at least every couple of weeks, always finishing off by covering with more **browns**.

GardenSmart Tip: A simple **electric fence** can be used to keep bears away from fruit trees, vegetable gardens and beehives. See the **Resources** section of this brochure for information on a local supplier.

STEP 5 Bury Fruit

Large volumes of fruits or other particularly odorous **greens** should be composted in the following manner to make their odours undetectable to bears: dig a hole or trench in the garden and bury organics under at least 12" of soil.



Make it a habit... Put your garbage out only in the morning on your collection day. Don't encourage bears to scavenge while you sleep.