



The **North Shore Black Bear Society** is providing tips to help to reduce attractants that bring wildlife into residential areas in the **District of West Vancouver**.

- **Wash organic and garbage containers with vinegar** to reduce odours. A pine-scented cleaner (original pine scent, not lavender or other scents) can be sprayed inside, outside and around the containers in storage areas to act as a deterrent.
- **The small organics cart that was provided to your home was not intended for outdoor storage.** Keep food scraps inside a garage, sturdy shed or the house until the morning of collection. **Freeze all meat and fish scraps and grease** until the morning of collection.
- **Place washed wrappings/containers** (that cannot be recycled) in the garbage cart. **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; flush the solids first.
- **Store all household waste in an enclosed shed or garage if you have one.**
- Place solid waste and recycling containers at curb side or in the lane **no earlier than 5:00 a.m.** on collection day.

NOTE: There should be no attractants in the garbage container. This is important because the garbage is collected bi-weekly.

The Solid Waste Utility Bylaw No. 4740, 2012, Amendment 5092, 5.1.9 states: *No person shall leave solid waste or recyclables which include or contain wildlife attractants outdoors where dangerous wildlife may be attracted, or where there is a reasonable possibility of dangerous wildlife being attracted unless the solid waste and recyclables are kept in a wildlife-resistant enclosure.*

In addition, **there should be no bird feeders, outside fridges or freezers, pet food, unclean bbqs, ripe unpicked fruit, or fallen fruit on your property.**

When the organics cart and garbage container 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.

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