



Here's [a helpful list of what to do](#) — and what NOT to do — if you see a bear in your neighborhood. Report bear sightings online by [submitting a Wildlife Incident Report to CDFW](#).

Attractant Management

Proper “attractant” management (i.e., securing garbage, pet food, bird seed, fruit trees, chicken coops, etc.) is the first and best step that communities should take to help minimize bear conflict and interactions. Making efforts to prevent access to potential attractants is key to reducing conflicts with all wildlife. Bears are very intelligent and inquisitive, and their sense of smell is ~7 x better than a bloodhound dog and ~ 100 x better than ours! They recognize that objects like trash cans, barbeques, and outdoor refrigerators contain “food rewards.” This is why it is so important that residents remove or prevent access to attractants around the home.

Be sure to keep all doors and windows securely closed and locked anytime you leave a home, vehicle, or other structure to discourage a curious bear from entering. It's up to each one of us, including those living in, visiting, or recreating in suitable bear habitat to practice good stewardship habits by always securing food, trash, and other scented items. Good habits will help ensure we keep bears wild!

Visit the [Bear Smart Durango](#) and [BearWise](#) website to learn about the use of bear deterrents.



Trash Management: For garbage-related issues (the most common scenario residents are likely to run into with bears), in the short run we would recommend keeping your existing cans/bins inside a garage or a sturdy four-walled structure given the recent bear activity. Only place them on the street the morning of trash pick-up and bring them in as soon as possible. We also advise cleaning bins regularly, and you might consider hanging ammonia-soaked rags and/or placing sponges around the bins as a smell deterrent – just keep in mind that ammonia can evaporate quickly and will need to be replaced daily for the best effect.

In the long run, we would also recommend obtaining [Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee \(IGBC\)](#) certified trash bins or dumpsters – visit their website for a list of Bear-Resistant Products. These are very effective in preventing not just bears, but also other wildlife from accessing your trash! We probably should reach out to WM to see if we can get more secure trash cans. Florida Fish and Wildlife also published “DIY” instructions on how to make your trash container more bear-resistant, in the interim (keep in mind that you would need to remove the clips or carabineers prior to trash pickup!)



Protecting Dogs: Jessica had this advice for walking dogs: “CDFW recommends that pet owners walk their dogs (or other animals) on a leash to help prevent interactions with any species of wildlife, but black bears by nature are very wary of dogs and typically do their best to avoid them (chickens and beehives, however, are more at risk with bears). Dogs can, however, exacerbate situations with bears.” A [“Dogs and Bears”](#) resource from BearWise.org explains this in more detail.

Thanks to everyone for your concerns about how to make our new Bear safe in our neighborhoods!