

August 28, 2024

Did you know bears will soon be searching for food near your neighbourhood?

In the fall, bears develop an insatiable appetite to help them gain weight for the winter which can lead them to approach and enter our neighbourhoods. If they find food there, they can become conditioned to human presence and lose their natural fear of us. This is dangerous both for the bears and for humans, so to help keep your community and local wildlife safe, it is critical to manage garbage and other bear attractants around the home. To ensure good garbage management, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has bylaws outlining curbside bin placement:

➤ **RDOS Bylaw 2819.01, 2024 states:**

“6.7 Curbside Properties within Electoral Areas “A”, “C”, “D”, “E”, “F” and “I” must place Garbage within a Wildlife Resistant Container, be placed within a Wildlife Proof Enclosure or be placed out after 5:00 am on the day designated for Garbage collection for the property.”

When garbage and recycling bins are not at the curb, they should be in a secure area. WildSafeBC strongly recommends using certified bear-resistant bins and storing them in a garage, shed, or outbuilding. If you do not have access to these options, chaining garbage bins to an immovable object (tree, wall) can help discourage bears from gaining access.

Other bear attractants around the home that also need management include:

- Fruit and nut trees: Harvest fruit and nuts as they ripen and pick up fallen produce as it accumulates.
- Animal feed: Ensure pet and livestock feed is stored securely and do not allow uneaten food to sit out.
- BBQs and bird feeders: Clean barbeques and other outdoor cookers of grease and food after each use and consider removing bird feeders outside of the winter months.

As an extra bonus, managing bear attractants also helps discourage rats, mice, and raccoons.

If you have any questions, please email rdos@wildsafebc.com or call 778-581-8040. For more information on managing wildlife attractants and reducing wildlife conflict, you can also visit <https://wildsafebc.com/>.

Sincerely,

Valerie Maida
RDOS WildSafeBC Community Coordinator

