

## What do bears love to eat?

Bears aren't out to cause problems. Black bears are very smart and super-resourceful, and will do their best to take advantage of all the easy-to-get-at calories we make available:

- ◆ Accessible garbage and trash
- ◆ Bird seed, suet, hummingbird feeders
- ◆ Fruit trees, gardens, natural food sources
- ◆ Chickens and small livestock
- ◆ Pet food, horse and livestock feed
- ◆ Barbecue grills, coolers, outdoor refrigerators
- ◆ Scented personal care products, scented candles, air fresheners



### Food for Thought

To get the 20,000 calories a day needed while fattening up before hibernation, a bear would need to eat 672 acorns, 78 pounds of blueberries, nearly 25,000 tent caterpillars or **ONE 7-pound birdfeeder filled with black oil sunflower seeds.**



## Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

Watching a bear can be an awe-inspiring experience. But watching a bear nose around your home, play in your hot tub or amble across your deck could be a death sentence. For the bear.

By doing nothing, you show bears that people are harmless and it's okay to check out our homes and communities to see what's on the menu. **So please do your part to help keep bears wild.** Lock up all your attractants. If a black bear does come around your home, yell, clap your hands and convince it that people places are no fun.

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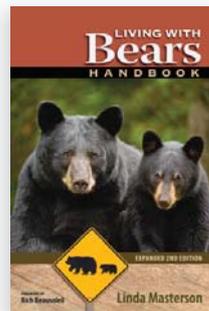
**WDFW Wildlife Program**

call 1-360-902-2200

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Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**



Find a wealth of helpful info in the  
**Living With Bears Handbook**  
by Linda Masterson

**LivingWithBears.com**

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# LIVING in Bear Country



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

**Beary Smart Solutions  
to Help Keep Bears  
Wild and Away from  
Your Home and Stuff**



Photo: Paul Conrad

## How to Avoid Attracting Bears

Think like a bear, and remove anything that could smell good (to a bear) or look like food. Remember bears can smell food from miles away. Bears also have great memories, and once they've found food around a home will check out other homes in hopes of finding more. Here's how to make sure they don't find anything at your place.

- ◆ Store garbage inside a sturdy building, bear-resistant container or enclosure.
- ◆ Never leave trash outside overnight.
- ◆ Don't feed birds until bears hibernate.
- ◆ Cage or electric fence your chickens and livestock.
- ◆ Pick fruit before it ripens.
- ◆ Avoid planting fruits, berries, edible gardens near your home.
- ◆ Don't store food, pet food, beverages, bird seed, coolers, etc. on your porch or deck.
- ◆ Avoid feeding pets outside; the smells remain after the food is gone.
- ◆ Close and lock garage doors.
- ◆ Clean out your car. Don't leave behind anything with an odor.

Read chapters 10 – 15 for more helpful tips.

## The Bear Behavioral Ladder of Progression

*A Step-by-Step Journey  
from Wary Beginning to Untimely End*

Smell something interesting. Follow nose to people place. Food smells good, but people might be dangerous. Wait until dark to explore.

Gobble up birdseed on ground. Knock down feeder, eat lots more. Run back to the woods.

Come back a few nights later. Feeder is full again! Chow down. Follow nose onto deck.

Jackpot! Find garbage by back door. Open, scatter and eat. Score a day's worth of calories. Plan to return often to this new food bonanza.

Amble back to the woods.

Explore the neighborhood. Get much fatter much faster than you could foraging in the woods.

Start coming during the day since food supply seems endless and humans appear to be harmless.

Find open garage, knock over refrigerator. Eat pizza and ice cream. Score a week's worth of calories.

Do enough damage to get reported. Make the news.

Start approaching people, looking for food. Get trapped, ear-tagged and hauled away.

Find your way back. Yummy treats still there! Pick up where you left off.

Scare someone putting out the trash.

Get labeled a threat to human safety.

**Get killed way before your time.**



Photo: Tom Beck

## Bear Calorie Counter



© Sara Tuttle

### Provided by People Calories

Birdseed, 1 pound black oil sunflower seeds . . . . .	2,585
Bird feeder filled with 7 pounds of birdseed. . . . .	18,095
Hummingbird feeder, 32 ounce . . . . .	3,200
Apples in the orchard, one bushel . . . . .	6,720
Dry dog food, 3 cups . . . . .	1,200
Honey, 1 cup . . . . .	1,024
Beehive, ten-frame hive, developing bees & honey . . .	68,672
Chickens (minus feathers), three (the rest got away) . .	4,500
Eggs, one dozen (eggs can't fly) . . . . .	888
Cherry pie, cooling on windowsill . . . . .	2,460
Grab bag snack chips, 2½ ounces . . . . .	400
Jelly donut . . . . .	310
Pizza slice. . . . .	375
Peanut butter & jelly sandwich . . . . .	490
Bacon grease, ½ cup . . . . .	936
Chocolate chip cookies, 1-pound package . . . . .	3,200
Fried chicken, 10-piece bucket . . . . .	2,735
Picnic basket, left on table . . . . .	9,510
Cooler, left under table . . . . .	6,536



Photo: Kathie Waibel

### Provided by Nature Calories

Huckleberries, 1 pound . . . . .	166
Cranberries, 1 pound . . . . .	210
Blueberries, 1 pound . . . . .	256
Raspberries, 1 pound . . . . .	229
Cherries, 1 pound . . . . .	288
Acorns (60-80), 1 pound . . . . .	2,082
Tent Caterpillars, 537 to a pound . . . . .	430