

LIVING SAFELY WITH BLACK BEARS



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept.

HOW TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH BLACK BEARS

BIRD FEEDERS

- Only put bird feeders out in winter when bears are denning (about December 1 - April 1)
- Rake up bird seed that falls on the ground
- Store seed indoors

BEE HIVES AND CHICKEN COOPS

- Store chicken feed inside
- Protect hives and chickens with 4 strands of electric fencing or poultry mesh electric fencing
 - Bait fence with bacon grease or peanut butter to ensure initial shock to train bears that are trying to approach hives or coops
 - Maintain equipment and check batteries regularly

BARBEQUE GRILLS

- Keep grills clean
- Store inside if possible

GARBAGE

- Store garbage cans inside, enclose with electric fencing, or use bear-resistant bins
- Take garbage to curb the morning of pickup
- Keep food scrap bins inside till taking to transfer station

COMPOST

- Use a bear-resistant bin or a pile protected by electric fencing
- Follow proper composting guidelines to reduce odor, for example:
 - Add plenty of BROWN material every time you add GREENS like kitchen scraps
 - NEVER add meat, fish, dairy, oil, unrinsed eggshells, cooked food or large amounts of fruit that might attract bears before they decompose

PET FOOD

- Feed pets inside if possible; if you have to feed outside:
 - Remove leftover food immediately after meals
 - Clean dishes daily
- Store pet food inside