



Are you Bear Wise Composting?

Bears can be attracted to other human activity as well. Ensure that your yard does not provide easy, unnatural food sources for bears. Here are some tips to keep nuisance bears away from your area when you have a back yard composter.

Bear attractants include

- Odorous garbage
- Recycling with remaining food waste
- Fruit-bearing plants
- Bird feeders
- Dirty barbeques
- Accessible pet food
- Poorly-maintained backyard composter

Lots of Brown material in your compost

Maintain a healthy compost bin to prevent odours that can attract bears. The key to a healthy compost bin is equal proportions of brown materials and green materials. The bacteria that do the majority of work in your compost bin require nitrogen-rich greens and an equal or greater volume of carbon-rich browns in order to create healthy, odourless compost. Browns should be added with every single addition of kitchen scraps, covering the scraps completely in layers no more than 4 inches thick. You will need to collect browns in the autumn to have enough to last the year, or use alternative brown material.

Regular turning and aerating of your compost

Frequent aerating is necessary to encourage the oxygen loving aerobic bacteria in your bin, especially at the compressed bottom of your heap. Lack of oxygen can result in an anaerobic, smelly compost bin. Always top off by covering with some brown material.

Bury your fruit

Large volumes of fruits or other particularly odorous greens should be composted in the following manner to make their odours undetectable to bears: dig a hole in the compost and bury under at least 12" of soil.