

# BUGGED BY A BOTHERSOME BEAR?



**BEAR League**  
www.savebears.org  
530-525-PAWS (7297)



## GET EDUCATED

### The first thing a bear thinks about and his prime motivation is FOOD!

- 🐾 Bears have a tremendous sense of smell, which guides them on their search for food
- 🐾 Bears are attracted to residences in the quest for an easy meal.
- 🐾 Bear problems tend to be temporary. If the bear doesn't find food, he moves on.
- 🐾 Bear problems need to be addressed on a neighborhood basis. **You** can do all the right things but, if your neighbors don't, the bear will stay around.

### Black bears are generally docile.

- 🐾 When given a way to avoid conflict with people they take it.
- 🐾 Bears are not vindictive and do not 'get mad' when garbage or food is removed.

### Black Bears are smart.

- 🐾 They learn rapidly and know where they have found food in the past. Once they have hit '**pay dirt**' they may damage property to get back at the food source again.
- 🐾 Bears can pry open doors, windows, dumpsters or other structures if they can get their claws or teeth into a crack or opening. Normally they will do this only if they smell food inside or have 'been lucky' before. They can easily tear through screens.

### Black bears climb trees when frightened.

- 🐾 Treed bears will come down if left alone. They may remain in a tree for several days.

### Government Policy

- 🐾 There is **NO** bear relocation program in the state of California & Nevada.
- 🐾 The California & Nevada Dept of Fish and Game **WILL NOT** relocate bears.

*When a complaint is registered about a '**problem**' bear that involves a threat to personal safety or property damage, a depredation permit is issued. A trap is set and **ANY** bear who enters the trap is killed. If she's a nursing mother, her cubs are also killed.*

*People who create situations where bears get food begin a cycle, which usually results in the death of a bear. Don't let this happen, follow **ALL** the guidelines!*

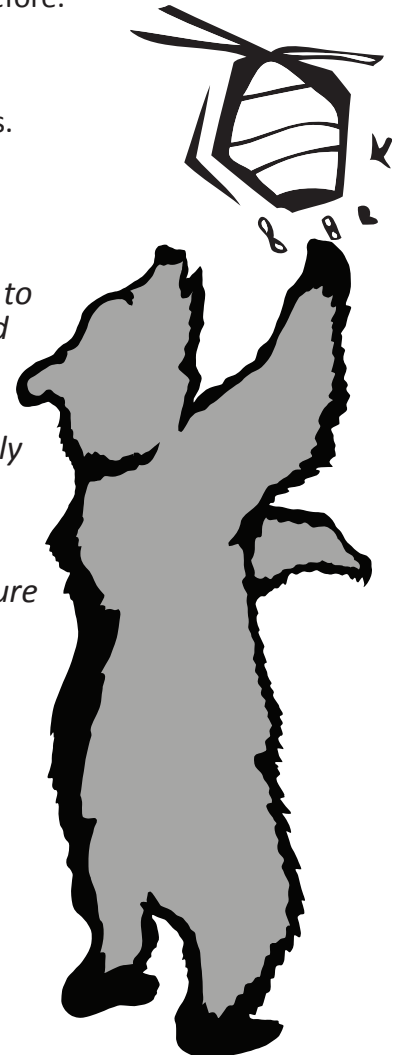
### Note:

*County ordinances throughout the Tahoe Basin require a Bear Proof garbage enclosure be installed and used properly wherever bears gained access.*

## What can you do?

### Eliminate or Mask Garbage and Food Odors

- 🐾 Deodorize garbage cans with bleach, unscented ammonia or unscented PineSol.
- 🐾 Separate '**wet garbage**' and keep it in an air and odor tight container. Use garbage disposal whenever possible. Freeze meat bones or other smelly items until pick-up day.
- 🐾 Deodorize soil or other porous surfaces where garbage has been stored and other areas where the bear may have spread garbage around .
- 🐾 Burn off BBQ grid after cooking and clean the drip can.



# Be responsible and take action!!

## Eliminate the Source

- 🐾 Install a 'Bear Proof' garbage container. There are several excellent examples now available for purchase. (go to our website for approved list [www.savebears.org](http://www.savebears.org))
- 🐾 Request a 'Bear Proof' dumpster from your disposal company.
- 🐾 Put garbage out on the morning of pick-up, NOT the night before (and certainly not all week long!!) If you can't be there to put it out ask a neighbor to help or take it with you for disposal elsewhere.
- 🐾 Don't feed pets outside and don't leave pet food outside.
- 🐾 Don't leave food in tents. This includes toothpaste, lotions, gum or candy.
- 🐾 Don't leave food or air-fresheners in vehicles. Roll up windows and lock car doors.
- 🐾 Clean baby seats. Leave NO diapers, clean or soiled, in vehicles.
- 🐾 Remove freezers, refrigerators and ice chests stored in open porches, garages and breezeways.
- 🐾 Compost piles can be a serious attractant.
- 🐾 Rinsing recyclables isn't enough, they recognize this as garbage and will still forage through it.

Keep it out of sight.

- 🐾 Bring bird feeders and suet in at night or whenever there is no one at home. Bears will climb trees to reach an upper deck feeder.
- 🐾 DeCON attracts Bears and LOTS of Rodents!

## NEVER FEED BEARS

## Inspect your property

- 🐾 Close and lock your windows at night (or when out of the room) on accessible ground floors and decks.
- 🐾 Don't leave pies, baked goods, or any food in or near a windowsill or on a counter where visible. Sights and smells will be an invitation to bears.
- 🐾 Securely block any access to potential hibernation/den sites, i.e. under decks, houses or sheds before a bear decides to take up residence.
- 🐾 Strengthen or fortify outside doors and windows on sheds, cellars, workshops, garages or any place where food or garbage is kept.
- 🐾 Install Electric door & window protection, it solves the breakin problem very quickly!

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