



Hello Homeowners & Residents,

We hope you're enjoying the start of September! We'd like to share some important information from the **Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO)** and **WildSafeBC** about **garbage, recycling, and property management** - especially as it relates to keeping our community safe during bear season.

Your Garbage, Your Responsibility: Keep Bears Wild & Communities Safe

As bears prepare for hibernation, they are actively seeking food sources. Managing attractants (like garbage, compost, fruit trees, and BBQs) is one of the most effective ways to reduce conflicts and keep both wildlife and our neighbourhoods safe.

"Most residential areas in the Central Okanagan are adjacent to bears' natural habitat, which is why it's so important to manage attractants around your property - especially garbage and recyclables. Don't be the reason a bear comes knocking,"

- *Cynthia Coates, RDCO Solid Waste Supervisor*

When wildlife has continual access to human food sources, they become food-conditioned and return regularly, which increases risks for both residents and the animal.

Why Bears Are More Active Now

During late summer and fall, bears enter **hyperphagia** - a phase when they consume up to **20,000 calories a day** in preparation for hibernation. This means they're moving into lower elevations, closer to residential areas, and the chance of conflicts increases.

"To find enough food before winter, bears tend to move to areas adjacent to their habitat. That's why conflicts in residential neighborhoods rise at this time of year,"

- *Breanna Scott, WildSafeBC Coordinator*

Local Bylaws & Regulations

- **Waste Curbside Rules:** Place garbage, recycling, and yard waste at the curb **only between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm on collection day.**
- **Wildlife Act (BC):** It is an **offence** under Section 33.1 to attract dangerous wildlife (bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes) with unsecured attractants.

Best Practices for Homeowners

- Store garbage/recycling carts **indoors or in a secure location** (shed, garage, etc.).
- **Freeze** strong-smelling food scraps until collection day.
- Keep carts **clean** and lids tightly closed.
- Pick ripe fruit promptly and collect fallen fruit.
- Keep BBQs clean and burn off food residue after each use.
- Avoid using bird feeders from **April to November**.
- Compost responsibly (follow RDCO guidelines).
- Keep pet food **indoors**.

If You See a Bear

Report human-bear conflicts to the **BC Conservation Officer Service**:

1-877-952-7277

For more information and practical tips, visit:

- rdco.com/wildlife-awareness
- wildsafebc.com

Kind regards,

TRCA

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