On-site backyard composting is the most effective and environmentally-friendly way to manage the organic ‘waste’ your home produces. Your compost will not be a bear attractant if it is maintained correctly and other attractants are managed responsibly.

Did you know... Bears require up to 20,000 calories per day before hibernation. That’s equivalent to 40 hamburgers and 40 ice cream sundaes! Once they find an easy food source they will keep returning to it. Don’t let them discover food at your home!

Bury 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.

Did you know... Low quality household paper products, such as tissue paper, egg cartons, paper towels, paper bags and cardboard rolls, are a great source of browns for your compost bin!

Be Unattractive
Ensure that your yard does not provide easy, unnatural food sources for bears.

Bear attractants include:
- odorous garbage
- unwashed recycling
- fruit-bearing plants
- bird feeders
- dirty barbeques
- accessible pet food
- poorly-maintained compost

Go Big on Brown
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 (carbon-rich material) 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 (fallen leaves) in the autumn to have enough to last the year, or use other materials listed on the reverse.

Make it a habit...
Put your garbage out only in the morning on your collection day. Don’t encourage bears to scavenge while you sleep.

Work Together
Collaborate with your neighbours to ensure that your immediate neighbourhood follows all the preventative measures to reduce human-bear conflicts.

Add Oxygen
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, which is not acceptable in bear country. Aeration is best done with a “Wingdigger”-type tool or a strong straight stick. Poke holes all the way down at least every couple of weeks, always finishing off by covering with more browns.

GardenSmart Tip:
A simple electric fence can be used to keep bears away from fruit trees, vegetable gardens and beehives.

It’s good to know...
Only 2% of bear sightings in 2010 involved a compost bin. Over 85% of bear sightings involved garbage or fruit. It’s up to you to keep your property free of bear attractants and help keep black bears wild and in the forest.

Bury 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.
What to Compost:

**Greens ✓**
- Fresh grass clippings
- Plant trimmings
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Human hair
- Animal fur
- Manure

**Browns ✓**
- Fallen leaves
- Sawdust
- Straw
- Newspaper (torn into 1” strips and crumpled)
- Tissue paper or kraft brown paper
- Paper towels or napkins
- Cardboard (toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, corrugated cardboard torn into small pieces)
- Coffee filters
- Dried grass clippings

Other Acceptable Materials ✓
- Rinsed and pulverized eggshells
- Small amounts of fireplace ash
- Floor sweepings
- Dryer lint

Unacceptable in Bear Country ✗
- Meat
- Fish
- Bones
- Grains, rice or pasta
- Dairy
- Grease or oil
- Charcoal briquettes
- Dog or cat feces and kitty litter (for health, not bear reasons)

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**GardenSmart Resources**

**Donate Surplus Fruit to:**
- Bear Aware
  - 604.815.5066
  - mtoom@squamish.ca
- or
  - Squamish Fruit Tree Project
    - krystletenbrink@gmail.com
    - 604.562.0446

**Published by**
- District of Squamish
  - 604.815-5066
  - bearaware.bc.ca

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**RAPP Report All Poachers and Polluters**
- Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline
  - 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
- (cell #7277)

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**5 Simple Steps**
**to Making Compost in Bear Country**

(in Squamish)