



Manitoba Conservation reminds people with homes, cottages or campsites in or near bear country to be ***bear smart***.

If people take the following simple steps to eliminate and secure anything that emits a bear-attracting odour, bears will go elsewhere to find food. When in bear country, always assume bears are around even if no recent problems have occurred.

**What to do:**

Never approach or feed a bear.

Keep garbage in a secured building or fenced area, and seal in a way that will not allow odours to escape. When "bear-proofing", always remember - if it can be pried open with a crow bar, it's not bear-proof.

Clean garbage containers regularly with bleach to stop odours. Double-bagging helps.

When practical, freeze garbage in bags and put the bags in the container just before garbage pickup and not the night before.

Take garbage with you when leaving your home or cottage, or ask a neighbour to put out the garbage for you just before pickup.

Feed your pets indoors.

Clean and store barbecues after each use.

Take down bird feeders between April and October.

Remove all ripened or fallen fruit daily in the morning and at dusk.

**Remember that bears are a part of nature but they are wild animals and must be respected for the danger they can pose to people.**

For more details on how to be bear smart, please refer to Manitoba Conservation's website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/blackbear>