



h o m e certification checklist

**Did you know** that bird feeders are powerful bear attractants? Or that compost and fruit on the ground can draw a bear in from a mile away? A human food-conditioned bear behaves much like a dog begging at your dinner table - one reward and it'll be back for more. Relocation of bears is usually unsuccessful as they often return to the same site for unnatural food rewards. Often, the result is a dead bear.

The Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP) launched the Bear Smart education program which works closely with North Cascades community members to tackle the challenge of human-black bear conflicts. Our Bear Smart assessments have shown that most rural residents like to see bears, and do not consider them a nuisance. But bears do occasionally find non-natural attractants, which can lead to problems. The Bear Smart message is simple – a few easy steps can be taken to ensure the safety of humans *and* the welfare of bears. We're inviting you to apply for Bear Smart Certification by completing the checklist below. **When we receive your form we'll send you a Bear Smart refrigerator magnet and a window decal for your home.**

**We:**

- Have read Bear Smart/GBOP information See our website (www.bearinfo.org) or pick up a GBOP brochure from a local outlet.
- Store garbage in a secured area Please keep all garbage in air-tight bags, enclosed in a secure area or locked dumpster each evening.
- Feed birds only in winter, or hang feeders 15 feet from the ground Bird food such as sunflower seeds and hummingbird mix are among the strongest bear attractants. Even food scraps for birds may draw bears in. Only feed the birds in winter when bears are not around or hang food out of reach.
- Feed pets indoors & store pet food indoors Pet food and pets can attract bears to your property. If you have to feed them outside, be sure to bring pet food indoors afterwards – especially at night.
- Pick ripe fruit from trees The sweet smell of ripe fruit can prove irresistible for a bear. If you have just a few trees, remove fruit regularly. Consider electric fencing for larger orchards.
- Clean up fruit that has fallen on the ground Rotting fruit on the ground not only smells stronger than fruit left on a tree, but it's also easier for a bear to access. Remove this strong attractant frequently.
- Clean BBQ after use and store securely Burn off all food particles or wash your BBQ thoroughly immediately after use. Store it indoors or in a garage.
- Bring food and ice chests indoors at night Bears can smell a meal from a mile away. This includes wrapped foods in closed ice chests. Bring these attractants indoors.
- Do not put oil, grease, dairy products, meat, bones or fruit in our compost These items are powerful attractants for a bear searching for high-calorie foods. Simply eliminating them from your composted items helps reduce odors.
- Reduce compost odor by adding lime Covering compost with leaves, soil, and grass also helps reduce odors.
- Stay indoors until a bear leaves Although seldom dangerous, bears are wild animals and are unpredictable. Keep your distance! Report unusual bear activity to local authorities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here** if you would like to get involved with Bear Smart & the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP)

**Please mail your completed form to:** GBOP Bear Smart, 28671 Utopia Road, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

**More information:** www.bearinfo.org, and click on BEAR SMART or telephone: 360 856 5076

**Sponsored by:** Defenders of Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle City Light, Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act 2000, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, USDA Forest Service, Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Woodland Park Zoo (Seattle), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, Grizzlies Brand (WILDTIME Foods), Grizzly Industrial, Canopy.