

The following are some guidelines to which will keep both people and bears safe:

Dispose of your trash in bear proof containers. Put your trash out the morning it will be picked up, not before.



Never leave garbage or food in vehicles.



Always feed pets indoors.



Always clean and store barbecues in a secured structure after each use.



Eliminate bird feeders or hang them at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the nearest tree.



Never feed bears or other wildlife.



Keep your windows and doors closed when you are cooking.

Bear Facts

- ◆ Black bears are the only species of bear found in Florida
- ◆ Adult male black bears usually live within a 60 square mile area, whereas females usually live within a 15 square mile area.
- ◆ Female bears have their first litter at about 3 ½ years old and generally have a litter every other year.
- ◆ In Florida, the breeding season runs from June to August and cubs are born around late January or early February.

If you are experiencing bear problems, please contact the nearest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regional office.

North Central, Lake City	386-758-0525
Northeast, Ocala	352-732-1225
Northwest, Panama City	850-265-3676
South, West Palm Beach	561-625-5122
Southwest, Lakeland	863-648-3200

If you suspect illegal activity, call FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-3922.
<http://myfwc.com/>



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

SERVING THE
COMMUNITY



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Guide to Bear Awareness



Division of
Code Enforcement

315 W Main St. Ste. 416
Tavares, Florida 32778

352-343-9639

Fax: 352-343-9106

<http://www.lakecountyfl.gov>

LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

Living with Bears

While feeding bears is illegal in Florida, bears are still often fed by humans, either intentionally or unintentionally. When black bears have access to pet food, garbage, birdseed, livestock feed or other human-provided items, they quickly learn to associate people with food. Bears that have become too comfortable around people are more likely to be killed, either by vehicle collisions, illegal shooting, or as a result of bear management actions.

FEEDING THE BEARS OR WILDLIFE

INCREASES THE POTENTIAL FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND THE DEATH OF A BEAR.



Bear Proof Containers*

The trash can looks just like the one you have now, but has been reinforced with a push-to-open latching system making it bear-proof, guaranteed. You must receive permission from your waste service provider before special ordering the garbage containers. *Available at most online retailers, Lowes, Home Depot, and True Value.

OTHER OPTIONS TO SECURE TRASH:

- ◆ Build a garbage shed (caddy)
- ◆ Screw top garbage cans
- ◆ Retro-fit existing garbage cans
- ◆ Install a motion-activated alarm
- ◆ Use electric fencing
- ◆ Install a motion-activated sprinkler (e.g. Water Scarecrow)

Warning! It is illegal to injure or kill black bears

Lake County Code Violations

Securing trash containers and prohibiting litter are the responsibility of the residences.

Section 21-23 Litter

Owner's and generator's responsibility: Any person generating litter shall be responsible for ensuring that such litter is managed, stored, handled, transported and disposed of in compliance with the codes and regulations.

Section 21-57 Garbage Containers

Residents shall procure steel, plastic or galvanized containers with close fitting covers, including water proof plastic bags of heavy mill construction.

Section 21-141 Containers

Containers shall be removed within 12 hours and not placed outside more than 12 hours prior to collection.

