

# What to Compost:

## Greens

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

## Browns

- ✓ Fallen leaves
- ✓ Dried grass clippings
- ✓ Kraft brown paper
- ✓ Wooden cutlery - NOT compostable or bioplastic
- ✓ Newspaper, torn into 1" strips & crumpled
- ✓ Low quality household paper, including toilet paper rolls, tissue paper, egg cartons, napkins, paper towels & plates.
- ✓ Sawdust
- ✓ Straw
- ✓ Coffee filters

## Other Materials

- ✓ Rinsed & pulverized eggshells
- ✓ Fireplace ash
- ✓ Dryer lint
- ✓ Floor sweepings

## Wildlife Attractants

- |       |                           |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Meat  | Grains, rice or pasta     |
| Fish  | Cooked food scraps        |
| Bones | Grease or oil             |
| Dairy | <b>Divert to C.O.R.E.</b> |

## Unacceptable Materials

- ✗ Dog or cat feces
- ✗ Charcoal briquettes
- ✗ Compostable or biodegradable plastic including bags, to-go containers, cutlery, etc.
- ✗ Kitty litter
- ✗ Drywall

## Local Resources:

Attend a **FREE** composting workshop – tune into local media or e-mail [info@letstalktrash.ca](mailto:info@letstalktrash.ca)

Visit the **Compost Education Centre** (behind 4752 Joyce Ave.) to view composting options.

Build your own composter – check out free plans at [letstalktrash.ca](http://letstalktrash.ca)

Contact our local stone, critter/bear-proof composter creator: [critterproofcomposting.com](http://critterproofcomposting.com)

### Skookum Food Co-op Fruit Gleaners

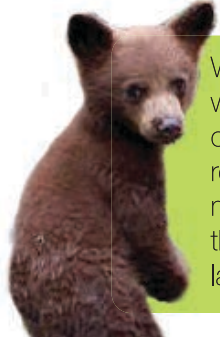
Get your tree picked, keep a third of the fruit, a third to the pickers, and a third for local food distribution. Call 604.485.7940, email [gleaners@skookumfood.ca](mailto:gleaners@skookumfood.ca) or find Skookum on Facebook.



Report a bear sighting by calling the BC Conservation Officer Service at 1.877.952.7277.

Donate excess fruit/crops/yard waste as animal feed or compost. **During bear season (April to November)** divert wildlife attractant food scraps for FREE to Powell River's **C.O.R.E. Community Organics Recovery Exchange** program. Residents & businesses can self-haul food scraps/yard waste to Town Centre Depot (open Mon-Sat 8:30am- 5pm). **Loads over 50L/20lbs must be taken directly to Sunshine Disposal Wed & Sat 10am-4pm ONLY at 4484 Franklin Ave. Max. load 2 yards!**

Keep wildlife wild and communities safe. Learn more at [wildsafebc.com](http://wildsafebc.com)



When it comes to what we GROW, whether it's crops like blueberries, or chickens in our backyard, we have a responsibility to do it in a sustainable manner that has minimal impact on the wildlife that shares the landscape with us.

Let'sTalkTrash.ca

WHAT IS WASTE?

## 5 Easy Tips for Making Compost in Bear Country



qathet  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

**"Keep wildlife wild & communities safe!"**

# Composting with Care in Bear Country

Backyard composting is the most environmentally friendly way to manage your household organic waste. Nearly 40% of household trash is food waste that can be diverted from landfilling.

Compost will not be a wildlife attractant if it is maintained correctly and other attractants are managed responsibly.

## Tip 1 Identify Attractants

Ensure your yard does not provide easy food sources for wildlife:

### ATTRACTANTS

### SOLUTIONS

#### Chicken coop

**Electric fence.** Keep chicken feed area clean. Store feed in bear-proof container. Try to minimize odour.

#### Fruit-bearing plants, trees

**Electric fence.** Pick fruit early when possible. Remove ripe or fallen fruit. Donate extra to local food charities & groups - see Tip 5 and “Local Resources”.

#### Compost

**Electric fence.** Decrease smell - see Tips 3 & 4 and “What to Compost”.

#### Garbage

**Remove food scraps, yard waste & recyclables!** Keep in bear-proof container or bear-resistant location. Only place out on **morning** of collection.

#### Unwashed recycling

Keep it clean and inside.

#### Bird feeders

Place feeders out when natural bird food sources are low, from Nov-Mar and when bears are hibernating.

#### Accessible pet food

Store pet food inside – bears can smell up to 1km away!

#### Piled grass clippings

Bear food! Compost piled grass or disperse on lawn.

#### BBQ

Keep it clean!

## Tip 2 Work Together

Collaborate with your neighbours so that each household is following preventive measures to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

More often than not, a fed bear is a dead bear.



### Did you know?

Adding a **brown** layer on top of freshly added food scraps acts as a 'biofilter' and helps to decrease odours.

image credit: [www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca)  
Victoria Compost Education Centre

## Tip 3 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.

**Browns** should be added with every single addition of kitchen scraps, covering the scraps completely in layers no more than 4” thick.

See reverse for “**What to Compost**”.

## Tip 4 Add Oxygen

Mix and aerate every time you add food scraps 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, not a good idea in bear country.

Aeration is best done with a “wingdigger” tool or a pitch fork.



## Tip 5 Manage Crops

Picking fruit before ripe when possible, and removing fallen fruit or nuts, help mitigate attracting wildlife to your property.

Too much or unwanted? See reverse for local resources, gleaners, and Powell River’s **C.O.R.E.** program.

Large volumes of fruit or odorous **greens** can be donated as farm feed, buried at least 12” deep (dig a hole or trench and cover with soil), composted with care (layer with an equal amount of **browns**), or taken to the landfill.

### Did you know?

Once you have attracted a bear, it will habitually return.

Installing an electric fence is the most effective way to deter the bear from returning.

