Be Bear Aware when hiking and camping

The best way to carry a bear-resistant container is inside your pack. Think of it as a stuff sack. When you have eaten some of your food, you can place other items inside the container to save space.

Food Storage Tips

• **To reduce odors and keep food dry** place your food into a food grade plastic liner bag like the one supplied with the container. Tightly twist the open end of the bag, double back, and close with a twist-tie.

• **Choose the right foods:** Dense, high-calorie options are best. Avoid stinky or aromatic food.

• **Plan every meal:** Avoid bringing too much (or too little). Lay out each day, divide portions, and pre-measure mixed foods like rice and pasta.

• **Repackage:** Get rid of bulky boxes and inflated packaging. Put food and toiletries into re-sealable bags or small containers. This saves space and reduces garbage. Make sure to keep the instructions and label each item.

• **Check that it fits!:** Before you start your trip make sure ALL your food, trash, toiletries, and scented items will fit inside your canister on the first night. After dinner your first night in the backcountry is NOT the time to discover your food doesn’t fit.

• **Carry the first day’s food outside of the canister:** Snacks, lunch, and dinner. Just be sure to keep that food with you at all times when you are hiking.

• **Minimize your toiletries:** Pack small and don’t bring more than you need. Put toothpaste, sunscreen, bug repellant, etc. into small reusable containers.

• **ALL scented items** - food, toiletries and garbage **MUST** fit inside the canister whenever you leave it unattended.

For more online information on being *Bear Aware* visit our website.

Chugach National Forest • fs.usda.gov/chugach

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender
Chugach National Forest

Bear Resistant Food Container Info

TO OPEN CONTAINER
• Rotate latches counter-clockwise using a coin or washer until they “click.”
  Push button to remove lid.

TO CLOSE CONTAINER
• Replace lid and rotate latches clockwise until they “click” into locked position.

_The container only works when closed and locked._
_The container holds 3-5 days of food for one person._

• Store all food, garbage, toiletries, and other scented items in container.
• When not in use, store container at least 100 yards from tent and cooking areas.
• Do not place it near a cliff or any water source. A bear may knock the container around or roll it down a hill.
• Do not hang or attach anything to the container. Secure it to prevent it from rolling away if necessary. Clean pots and pans can be placed on top of the container as a bear alarm.
• Keep container closed and locked, especially when preparing meals! Be prepared for uninvited guests at all times!
• Keep container away from excessive heat. Do not use as a stove stand.
• Set up camp so wind blows cooking and food odors away from tent site.
• Do not attempt to retrieve a container while a bear is actively interested in it. A bear will fight for food! Let the bear paw, chew and kick the container. It will lose interest and leave on its own.

Pick up & Drop off Locations (please clean container before returning)

_Chugach National Forest, Supervisor’s Office_ @ 161 East First Avenue, Door 8, Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 743-9500 • _Glacier Ranger District_ @145 Forest Station Rd. Girdwood, AK 99587 (907) 783-3242 • _Seward Ranger District_ @33599 Ranger Station Spur 99664, milepost 23.5 (907) 288-3178 • _Begich, Boggs Visitor Center_ in Portage. (Summer hours only 9am – 5pm) (907) 783-2326.

For more online information on being _Bear Aware_ visit our website.

Chugach National Forest • fs.usda.gov/chugach