

How to Use a Bear Canister

The most important part of using a bear canister is what goes inside it. Make sure all food, all trash, all toiletries and all other scented items are inside the bear canister. This includes but is not limited to all sealed or packaged food, sunscreen, soap, mosquito repellent, lip balm, deodorant, medications, and feminine products.

The bear canister only works if it is closed and locked. Be sure to keep it closed and locked even while you are around your campsite. Place the canister on the ground in a flat, level area 100 feet or more from your campsite and cooking area. Take care not to place it near a cliff of any water source as a bear may knock the canister around or roll it down a hill. Do not hang or attach anything to the canister (ropes attached to the canister enable a bear to carry it away). You can place pots and pans on top of the canister as a bear alarm if you like.



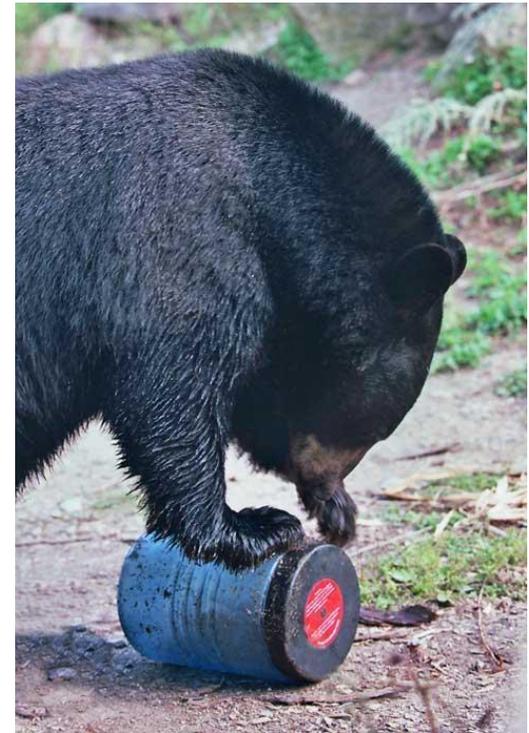
US Forest Service
White River National Forest
Aspen-Sopris Ranger District

806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
970-925-3445
www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver



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Bear-Resistant Food Canisters



What's for Dinner?!

Why Bear Canisters?

The most effective method of food storage for backpackers is a hard-sided bear-resistant canister. For stock users, the most effective method is bear-resistant panniers or steel drums. It is extremely difficult for bears to open any of these containers, because they cannot gain a hold with their claws.

Bear canisters are now required in the White River National Forest on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Areas, particularly on the West Maroon & Maroon Snowmass areas.



By using a bear canister, this gives the black bears the best chance to exist in a natural environment, undisturbed by human influences.

When Bears gain access to improperly stored food they become habituated and food conditioned (less likely to forage for their natural food sources). When black bears lose their fear of humans, they may become more aggressive toward visitors as a strategy in obtaining human food. To protect humans and bear, please do your part to ensure your food is stored properly.

Types of Canisters



Bear canisters are hard-sided portable containers intended to fit within a backpack and capable of storing several days' worth of food. You may use any allowed canister. See the following for a list of allowed canisters: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3813048.pdf

Food Storage while Backpacking

Food items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers and any item that may attract bears such as, but not limited to, pet foods, cooking utensils and equipment, cooking grills, personal care products, coolers and outer clothing that may have absorbed cooking odors unless it is within arm's reach (so don't go

for a swim or take a nap while leaving food out).

Hanging your food does not comply with the current Special Order in West Maroon Valley.

Think of your food, tent, and cooking area in a triangle, with at least 100 feet between each.

Camp Area

