

Properly Storing Attractants in Bear Country

Generally

- Bears have a broad diet and are attracted to a wide variety of unnatural foods, including human food, garbage, canned or bottled beverages, processed livestock feed, pet food, bird seed, toiletries, and coolers, stoves, and grills containing food or food residue.
- Bears that obtain human food or garbage often become aggressive and dangerous in their efforts to get more. This food-conditioned behavior can lead to human injury, death, and damage to property.
- Food-conditioned behavior usually cannot be changed and these bears must be killed by managers.
- Don't be the one responsible for human injury or death or the death of a bear because YOU did not store your food properly.
- Read and understand food storage regulations before your visit. Coolers, backpacks, wooden boxes, and tents are not bear resistant and may not be used to store food or other bear attractants.
- For more bear safety tips, visit the Center for Wildlife Information Web site at <http://www.centerforwildlifeinformation.org/>.

In the front country

Store your food, garbage, and any other bear attracts in one of the following places:

- In metal storage boxes located in most campgrounds. Keep in mind you must share these food boxes with other campers and be sure to leave the boxes empty and clean when you leave.
- Within a hard-sided vehicle (**be warned – on occasion, bears will break into your vehicle if they smell or see desirable items**)
- Hang your items from a tree or cable – at least 10 feet above ground and four feet out from any vertical support, and preferably more than 100 yards from your tent.

In the back country

- Carefully hang food and other attractants at least 10 feet above the ground and four feet out from any vertical support, and preferably more than 100 yards from your tent. This document illustrates methods for hanging your food.
- A variety of containers certified as bear resistant by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee are available and may also be used to store your food and attractants. If you choose to use these, make sure they are in good condition, as damaged containers will not deter bears.
- Pack out your trash. Never bury garbage, and if you burn garbage in a fire pit make sure you pack out all unburned residue.
- If you have livestock, ensure all processed livestock feed is stored the same as other bear attractants.

- If a bear does get your food, please take the responsibility for cleaning up and packing out all debris. Report such incidents or other bear conflicts to the nearest Forest Service or Wyoming Game and Fish Department office.

Animal carcasses

- Bears are especially attracted to animal carcasses.
- Hunters should be aware that animal carcasses are subject to special storage requirements and present special challenges for proper storage
 - Carcasses must be stored at least 100 yards from camping or sleeping areas and Forest Service system trails, even if the carcasses are hung properly or within a hard-sided vehicle.
 - Meat poles are available for carcass storage in some back country and dispersed campsites.
 - Without a properly constructed pole, hanging carcasses so they are unavailable to bears will be difficult. Hunters should plan ahead as to how they will store their game if they are successful and have all the necessary equipment (ropes, pulleys, etc.).
- Closely watch the area around the pole for signs of bears and use caution when approaching, as bears may be in the vicinity.