



Being Bear Aware

Naramata and Falconridge Curbside Garbage Program

August 2011

New Garbage Rules Help Protect People and Bears

Naramata and Falconridge residents are asked to use **one of three options** while placing out garbage at the curbside on Mondays:

- Place out your garbage on the day of collection after 5:00 am; or
- Build or buy a garbage enclosure; or
- Rent or buy a bear resistant container.

Option 1—Place Out Garbage after 5:00 am on Day of Collection

Residents can no longer place out garbage the night before unless it is protected in a bear proof container or bear proof enclosure. Residents that continue to place out unprotected garbage the night before could receive a \$100 fine per occurrence!



Option 2—Build or Buy a Bear Resistant Garbage Enclosure

Garbage enclosures are small sheds at your property line, built to protect garbage and recycling until safely collected. Garbage enclosures can be bought from stores such as Home Hardware or made at home using wood or concrete.

When building a garbage enclosure at home use the following advise:

- Don't have any over hangs or mesh where bears can latch on and get leverage;
- Cover wooden seams with metal flashing;
- Use screws not nails;
- Buy heavy duty handles or latches that can't be opened by bear claws;
- Make sure you can't get into the enclosure by lifting, tipping or prying it;
- Ensure waste can be removed by drivers;
- Contact RDOS for designs and more advice on building garbage enclosures.



Example 'TyeDee Bin' pre-made Garbage Enclosure



Home constructed Garbage Enclosure with metal seams and heavy duty handles



Example Bear Resistant Container with reinforced lockable top

Option 3—Rent or Buy a Bear Resistant Containers

Bear resistant containers are specially designed toter bins with wheels. They must be reinforced with metal strips and a lockable top. Too heavy to lift by hand, these toters are collected with a mechanical lift on the side of the garbage truck. Not all containers are compatible with the garbage truck. Residents should contact BFI Canada before purchasing a bear proof container. BFI Canada can rent bear bins to residents. Look on back for more information on the 'One Month Pilot Project'. **BFI Canada Penticton Office: 250-490-3888.**

Questions About New Curbside Pick-up Rules



Cub with tub stuck on head
unable to eat or drink

Why is protecting bears an issue in Naramata?

Already in 2011, 163 bears have been destroyed in BC. Naramata has a history of human-bear conflict resulting in Conservation Officers having to destroy problem bears. Bears generally are not aggressive to humans but can become used to eating garbage, pet food, bird seed and tree fruit. Residents can make simple changes to reduce bears coming on their property.

Does putting out unprotected garbage the night before really make a difference?

Yes. Garbage left unprotected overnight attracts bears, dogs, racoons, rats and other animals. Bears are habitual creatures and will remember how to obtain an easy meal, and return again and again. Once bags are ripped open, dragged away, or cans tipped over then birds and wind can spread the pungent garbage around your property.

Have the new curbside garbage rules been working?

Yes! Since July 1st, 2011 residents have been required not to place garbage out over night. As a result, streets are tidier, fewer incidents of bear sightings or damage have been reported, and calls to the Conservation Officer Service RAPP Line has declined to zero over the summer. When Fall brings bears back into our neighbourhoods to fish the creek, the bears will have no reason to loiter in the community. **RAPP Line # 1-877-952-7277**



Information sticker on garbage can

What will happen if I leave out garbage bags the night before?

The RDOS will only fine people as a last resort. The goal of the program is to break the habit of placing out waste over night. Residents will receive warnings several times before being fined. Repeat offenders may also be reported to the Conservation Officer Service.

Can my recycling bags also attract dangerous wildlife?

Recycling can attract animals if materials still contain traces of food waste. Always clean your recyclables well. Place recyclables at the curb on the morning of collection.

Free One Month Trial of Toter Bins

This Fall, residents in Naramata and Falconridge can participate in a **one month free trial of bear proof bins**. This pilot will allow residents to 'test out' bear resistant bins to see if they are right for their property. The pilot also includes bins for recycling and yard waste.



To sign up your property for this program or to get more information please contact the RDOS using the contact information below. A maximum of 100 properties will be allowed to participate. After the pilot is complete, BFI Canada will be renting bins to all home owners. For more information on that program please contact BFI Canada using the information below.

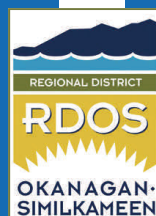
If you experience a missed collection or have questions about your garbage and recycling collection, contact:

BFI Canada

Phone:

250-490-3888 (Penticton)

250-498-4888 (Oliver)



If you need more information on composting, recycling or reuse programs please contact:

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Solid Waste Hotline: 250-490-4129

Toll Free: 1-877-610-3737 ext. 4129

E-mail: info@rdos.bc.ca