

BEAR ESSENTIALS

It is very important to do all that we can to prevent bears from coming into the Ponderosa.

Keep garbage in bear proof cans or in a bear resistant enclosure.

Remove all bird feeders (including hummingbird feeders) and pet food. Birdfeeders are okay from January 1 – March 15.

Put garbage cans out curbside early the day of collection and put away that evening.

Enclose food compost bins and keep barbeques in an enclosed space.

There is someone in the Ponderosa who will take your garbage out for a small weekly fee. Please contact the PCC office for more information.

WASTE MANAGEMENT POSITION:

At this time, Waste Management is not going to purchase any of the attachments, carts, and etc. If a customer wants to purchase the material to bear proof the container that they have, if it is our container, we give them permission to modify the container.

A customer, that is in Chelan County, can purchase a cart that is bigger than a 32gal. If a customer does purchase a cart that is bigger than 32gal and we have to manually lift it, it must not be over 70lbs. If a customer purchases something else that is bigger than a 32gal and we can use our truck to service it, we are fine with that.

Also, a customer that has a Toter, may request a Cascade cart. But again we will not be ordering any material to bear proof a container. It must be a customer's purchase.

SOLUTION OPTIONS:

1. bearierbins.com at 1-888-433-6920. Currently they supply bear proof cans that Waste Management will empty. This company is also in the process of developing a lock system that will fit your current Waste Management cart. A flyer is attached. FYI: This is a local business located in Leavenworth.
2. There are other companies that supply bear proof containers. If you order a cart/can larger than 30-32 gallon, it is wise to check with WM to see if they will empty it. Some can designs do not allow garbage trucks to lift them to be emptied. Please refer to can weight parameters under Waste Management above.
3. Build a bear proof enclosure for your existing garbage cans. Attached is an example of constructing one. "If you can get into it without using your hands-by jumping on it, kicking it, using your shoulders-then it isn't bear resistant."

Build your Own Garbage Storage Unit

If you do not have the luxury of keeping your garbage cans in a garage or shed or other fully enclosed sturdy structure, here are some ideas for how to build an enclosure for your cans and a pdf print out sample:

- Minimum of 5/8 inch plywood; 2 x 4 construction; use screws instead of nails.
- Heavy duty hinges and latches strong enough that they cannot be pried open by claws.
- No seams that claws can get into (use metal flashing to cover seams).
- Secured so it can't be tipped.
- If you can get into it without using your hands-by jumping on it, kicking it, using your shoulders-then it isn't bear resistant.

Publication – [“Tips on Garbage Storage”](#) (pdf)

One sided contains tips, the other side contains drawings of how to build a bear-resistant container.