



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **Managing Bears and Garbage in Simsbury**

Bears are considered to be one of the most intelligent land animals in North America, and over time they have learned to view residents' trash barrels as a food source. Bears have also become aware of when trash is collected in specific areas of Town. One of the best ways to minimize the chance of human-bear interaction is to keep unsecured garbage away from bears and to take measures to make it as unappealing as possible when barrels are curbside.

### **Tips for keeping bears away from your garbage:**

- Do not put your trash barrel out at night; wait until the morning of trash collection to bring your barrel curbside
- When your barrel is not curbside, leave it secured inside a garage, shed, or out building
- Lock household doors and windows as unlocked or open doors and windows can allow bears to enter your home, garage, or shed
- Regularly wash your barrel with a strong disinfectant such as bleach or white vinegar; spray the inside of the barrel with ammonia between cleanings to discourage bears
- Fill a perforated bag, stockings, or thin trouser socks with moth balls and hang it inside the back of your trash barrel to discourage bears
- Freeze your food waste and put it into your trash barrel just before taking it to the curb
- Secure your trash barrel cover with bungee cords or a ratchet strap to help discourage bears; remove the bungee cord on your trash pick-up day

### **Additional tips for keeping bears away from your home:**

- Do not add meat or sweets to your compost piles
- Do not leave pet food outside of your house
- Make sure outdoor grills are cleaned of residual food and are securely covered
- Remove birdfeeders from areas near your house

[Simsbury Police Department Bear Awareness Brochure](#)

[CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Black Bear Information](#)