



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](#)