



## Composting in Bear Country

Composting well protects animals and people because it reduces the chance that you will accidentally feed an animal.



**Take down birdfeeders**, except when bears are hibernating. Bird seed draws bears into yards. Plant native flowers and shrubs that attract birds instead.



**Compost in a hard, durable bin**, ideally with a lid that would be challenging for a bear to open. Cover all food scraps with “browns” (dried yard debris, wood chips, sawdust, or shredded paper); they help contain odor. Frequently mix the pile.



**Don't compost meat and bones** at home. Bring them to a compost drop-off or put them in the trash.



**You have options!** You can bring food scraps to transfer stations and other local drop-offs. Consider drop offs in the spring when bears are most active.



## Curious Bear? Don't Feed It.



1. **Contact Vermont Fish & Wildlife** for more advice on deterring a bear in your yard **before it becomes a problem**. Fill out this form to get in touch:

[Anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx](http://Anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx)



2. Bring food scraps to a drop-off for a while **OR** Surround your bin with an electric fence (smear peanut butter on the fence so the bear gets a little zap to the face).