



Waste Reduction

You can COMPOST with BEARS in the BACKYARD!

Every year Summit County residents prepare for “mud” season and gear up for summer. At the same time, neighboring bears wake up to rumbling tummies and alert noses. Your compost bin may also be waking up from winter dormancy or maybe you are ready to start your first compost pile. Either way, you might be wondering how to compost food waste in Bear Country. Here are some tips and tools for thinking like a bear and composting like a mountain...

- **Bears refuse to eat finished compost** - Bears will be attracted by the smell of rotting food - either in your garbage can or your compost bin. A properly maintained compost bin should not produce smells that attract bears. Compost actively and correctly or not at all.
- **Un-bearable Ingredients** - Do NOT add meat, fish, dairy, or grease to your bin...ever! During high bear activity times, do not add sweet smelling things (fruits and veggies), especially melon rinds and berries. Also, do not add cooked foods. High bear activity means recent sightings or during spring/fall feeding times.
- **Creature Indicators** - Watch your bin for visits from other furry friends that may indicate your bin is smelly. If raccoons, foxes, skunks, and even dogs are visiting your bin, a bear might too.
- **Be a Good Housekeeper & Neighbor** - Minimize other bear attractants such as garbage cans, dirty BBQ grills, bird feeders, pet food, and citronella candles. Put your bin a great distance from these attractants.
- **And Remember** - NO compost bin is bear proof, but a well maintained compost bin should not produce smells that attract bears! With bears as your neighbor, compost correctly or compost indoor with worms.
- **Still not convinced?** Attend one of HCCC's backyard compost workshops to learn more composting techniques and troubleshooting. HCCC also hosts the Master Mountain Composter Program each spring/summer. This six-week intensive course trains compost experts who will help other composters. Call us for details or visit our website!



High Country Conservation Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting practical solutions to waste reduction and resource conservation for our mountain community.
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