

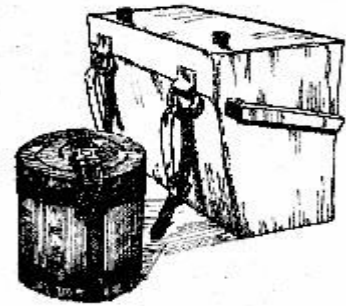
Fact Sheet – Kootenai National Forest  
**Food, garbage and other attractant storage for**  
**HIKING/ BACKPACKING/ CAMPING** 6/2011

Leaving food or trash out gives animals time to find it and get into it. This creates a reward for the animal and encourages them to continue to visit. It is much harder to deter an animal that is conditioned to human food than it is to stop a single instance. When animals associate people with a reward they may have to be trapped, relocated or killed; OR the recreation site may be closed to use.

**Food, garbage and other attractants includes; soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, pet foods, processed livestock feed and grains, personal hygiene products, and empty food or beverage containers.**

**Recommendations:**

- Reduce odors by using plastic bag liners
- Pack light, keeping garbage to a minimum
- Keep a clean camp at all times
- Cook at least 100 yards from backcountry campsite
- Don't leave fish entrails on shorelines, sink in deep water



**Proper possession or storage of food, garbage and other attractants means:**

- Adult is within 100 feet of attractants during daytime hours OR
- After dark attractant is being transporting, prepared or eaten

**If you are not within 100 feet of the attractant, or it is after dark and you are not transporting, preparing or eating, then attractants MUST BE:**

- Stored inside a certified bear-resistant container (coolers are NOT bear resistant), or
- Stored in a closed vehicle; hard-sided camper, vehicle trunk or cab, or trailer cab (truck canopies are NOT bear resistant) or
- Hung at least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any vertical support or
- Stored in a certified electric fence or
- Stored in a hard sided building

**Burnable attractants** include items such as leftover food, waste products, food grease or residue, or food saturated containers. These items should not be buried, discarded or burned in an open campfire, **UNLESS** they are first placed in a container (i.e. tin can or fire pan) to prevent leaching into the ground, and burned over an open campfire. Any remains not consumed by burning should be stored and packed out.



Kootenai National Forest  
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