The Six BearWise Basics

Never Feed or Approach Bears
Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people looking for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs!

Secure Food, Garbage and Recycling
Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.

Remove Bird Feeders When Bears Are Active
Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they're very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts.

Never Leave Pet Food Outdoors
Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.

Clean & Store Grills
Clean grills after each use, removing all grease, fat and food particles. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.

Alert Neighbors to Bear Activity
See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share information on how to avoid bear conflicts.

Bears have adapted to living near people. Now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.

Learn More: BearWise.org

BearWise — A Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Program

Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears

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