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Bears are always on the lookout for food sources. Like most animals, bears are interested in finding the most calories they can for the least amount of work. Every calorie a bear can save is a calorie that can help it fatten up and live through the winter. Bears that have been rewarded with an easy meal for poking their nose into someone's bird feeder, garbage can or garage will often investigate any similar food sources in their home range. Sending bears on their way empty-pawed helps protect your home and property, and teaches the bear a lesson that could save its life.

Deterrents can be useful in areas where bears have already learned that where there are people, there is usually easy-to-get-at food. The purpose of a deterrent is to make your home

If you're reviewing options, products that randomly produce a different noise each time they're activated or have lights that flash in different patterns may be more effective than something with a single repetitive sound or a light that simply comes on for several minutes.

Radios

Leaving a radio tuned to a talk show can make it sound like someone is home and may persuade bears to leave the area. It's the human voice that does the trick; music doesn't seem to have any effect. If you'll be gone for an extended period of time, you can put a radio on a timer. Some people have found this to be an effective technique in chicken coops as well.

Scent Deterrents

A bear's nose is 100 times more sensitive than a human's. If you find bleach or ammonia fumes unpleasant, you can imagine what they smell like to a bear. Bleach or ammonia-based cleaners are good for trash cans and other areas where strong scents could attract bears. Some people have had some success with covered buckets or other containers filled with bleach or ammonia, with holes punched in the lids to let the scent out, placed outside bear-accessible doors and windows