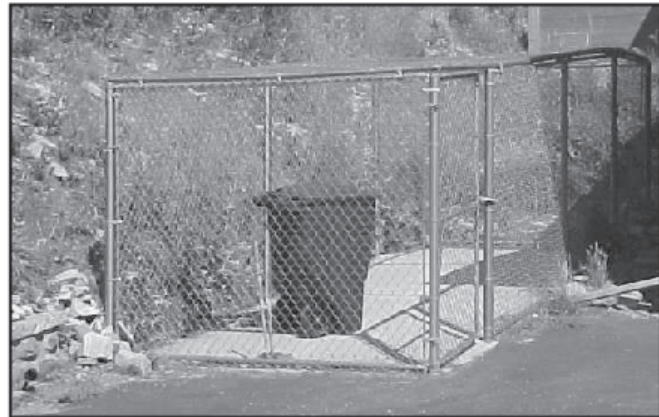


Allowing bears to use trash and garbage as a food source creates serious problems for both people and bears. Because the food reward is so great, bears are willing to work hard to get at trash and garbage, and return often in hopes of finding more. These food-conditioned bears sometimes enter homes, garages or even vehicles in search of an easy meal. Bears in pursuit of such a good source of calories can do a lot of property damage, and even become aggressive. Allowing bears to get into the garbage is one of the leading causes of human-bear conflicts. Being smart about how you handle and store your trash can protect your home and property, and help keep bears alive and wild.



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Ordinary chain link, wood or vinyl fencing won't keep out bears. Bears are great climbers and can easily scoot up and over fencing if there's something on the other side they really want. Black bears are also good diggers and can tunnel underneath fencing as well.



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If you can't store your garbage inside a sturdy locked building, a heavy-duty chain-link fenced enclosure with a chain-link "roof" and a concrete pad bottom and a locking (not latching) gate can help keep out your average bears. Just remember that garbage in an enclosure still gives off odors that attract bears and other wildlife, so it's very important you always remember to lock the enclosure, and check your home and property