



Public Service Announcement

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NEW GARBAGE RULES TO DETER BEARS TAKE EFFECT AUGUST 4

The City's Solid Waste Bylaw has been amended (see details at www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears), due to escalating bear sightings and conflicts in Port Coquitlam. Port Coquitlam residents and businesses in areas known to attract bears will be required to secure their garbage and other attractants as of August 4, 2009, following changes to the City's Solid Waste Bylaw. Complete details can be found at www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears.

The bylaw changes stipulate that all residents and businesses within the designated enforcement area (including those who don't receive City collection) must secure their garbage and other items that attract bears and wildlife in either:

- a wildlife-resistant enclosure (fully enclosed – such as a garage or garden shed – and strong enough or designed to prevent access by bears or other wildlife), or
- a wildlife-resistant container (strong enough or designed to prevent access by bears or other wildlife). *For those who receive City collection, this means locking the carts with a Bear Aware endorsed locking device that works with the City's automated collection system. At this time, the only known locking device that fits this criteria is Critter Guard.*

Wildlife attractants include: garbage and kitchen waste, food products, beverage containers, barbecue grills, compost (in piles, not composters), pet food, bird feed, diapers, grease barrels, petroleum products and chemical products.

Other bylaw changes that apply to the enforcement area include:

- Garbage containers are to be set out between 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. on collection day, with all locks unfastened (containers to be secured again by 7 p.m. that day).
- Owners of fruit trees must immediately remove fallen fruit and pick fruit upon ripening.
- Beehives, bird feeders and petroleum products (i.e. grease and motor oil) must be inaccessible to wildlife.
- Outdoor refrigerators or freezers must be securely locked or inaccessible to wildlife.
- Wildlife attractants may not be put into compost piles.

Bylaw enforcement will initially focus on education and awareness, with the initial contact being a visit from City staff to provide information and advice on how to comply with the bylaw. Fines (\$150 for not securing attractants and \$75 for not unlocking City waste carts on collection day) will only be applied in cases of ongoing non-compliance.

Residents concerned about their ability to comply with the bylaw are encouraged to contact the City's Operations Division at 604.927.5488 or 604.927.5496, or operations@portcoquitlam.ca.

For a map of the designated enforcement areas, more details or to view a copy of the amended Solid Waste Bylaw, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears.

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