

## **Bear reports on the rise in Wise County...**

### **What can you do to deter bears in your community?**

Find below links to information on bears and how to deter them from an area. The first link is a good summary of a lot of information. The second has links to videos on bear behavior and do-it-yourself tips. There are also bear proof dumpsters and trash cans that can be placed in public areas and at businesses that should help alleviate some of the problem. Once attractants are removed or secured, the next thing recommended people do is harass the animal -- making loud noises, such as, air horns or car horns, if people are in their vehicle. Bears will often become used to and ignore these techniques because there is no real consequence to them. If this is the case, it is recommended people become more aggressive using paintball guns, slingshots, or rubber bullets, if it is safe to do so. It is important that all members of the community participate in removing any food attractants.

Living with bears:

- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/black-bear-factsheet.pdf>
- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/>
- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/problems/bears/>
- <http://www.lwwf.org/>
- <http://www.bearsmart.com/becoming-bear-smart/home/bear-deterrents>
- [http://www.bearicuda.com/enclosures/garbage\\_can\\_storage.php](http://www.bearicuda.com/enclosures/garbage_can_storage.php)
- <http://www.blackbearkingdom.net/judging-black-bear.html>

Bear Deterrents:

- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/fencing.pdf>
- <http://www.bearsmart.com/docs/unwelcome-mats.pdf>
- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/bear-resistant-retrofit-polycart.pdf>
- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/problems/bears/bear-garbage-caddy.pdf>
- <http://margosupplies.com/public/>

Pepper spray brands:

- Counter Assault - [www.counterassault.com](http://www.counterassault.com)
- Udap - [www.udap.com](http://www.udap.com)
- Guard Alaska - [www.defensivedevices.com](http://www.defensivedevices.com)

**Brought to you by the VA Wildlife Conflict Helpline:**

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