



How to modify a dumpster to make it more bear-resistant

With simple hardware, a dumpster can be made more bear-resistant. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) offers some easy-to-install designs using inexpensive, commonly available hardware.

- If the dumpster is owned by your waste service provider, you *must* contact them for permission before modifying the dumpster.
- You will need to unlock the dumpster before it can be emptied by your waste service provider.

Modifying your dumpster may not stop bears from accessing your garbage. For a more permanent solution, ask your waste service provider for a dumpster specifically designed to keep bears out.



Method 1

- A. Bolt one sheet of pressure-treated plywood onto the top of each lid. Plywood should overlap the forward edge of the dumpster to prevent collapse if a bear stands on the lids.
- B. Two chains go across the dumpster lids to secure them in a closed position. Ratchets may be used to adjust the chain tension.
- C. Two eyebolts on each side of the dumpster anchor the chains. Use shackles (shown) or carabiners to connect the chains to the eyebolts. Disconnect the chains to allow the dumpster to be emptied.



Method 2

- A. Bolt one bar from a standard metal bed frame or similar material to the bottom of one of the lids. The bar will prevent collapse if a bear stands on the either of the lids.
- B. With a security lock bar (rented from your waste service provider) in place and the bar supporting the lids from underneath, the dumpster is now bear-resistant.
- C. While the bar extends under both lids, it is not bolted to the lid on the right. This allows users to lift the right lid to access the dumpster on one side only.



Method 3

- A. Rent a security lock bar from your waste service provider, and attach a PVC pipe to allow the bar to clamp down more tightly on the lids
- B. Place a board or metal bar along the grooves in the dumpster lid. Once the security lock bar is closed, it will hold the board or metal rod on place and prevent a bear from being able to collapse the lid

For assistance or comments call your local fish and game agent. Contact information can be found at BearWise.org.