



Bear Canister Information

Bear canisters are recommended throughout Olympic National Park and required in many backcountry areas, including the entire wilderness coastal strip and Sold Duc / 7 Lakes Basin Area. Wildlife safety depends on the proper storage of all food, garbage and scented items while you are enjoying your backcountry adventure.

- Never leave food unattended! Secure all food, garbage and scented items away from wildlife at all times.
- Never eat or store food in your tent. Animals have entered tents in search of food, even when occupied.
- Wash dishes immediately and away from campsites and water sources.
- Do not abandon your food if a bear or raccoon enters your camp. Make noises and try to scare it away or leave the area with your food. However, if they are intent on getting your food, do not risk injury.
- Raccoons, crows, squirrels and ravens can be very aggressive along the coastal camping areas. Bear canisters are required for all coastal camping areas.
- Never feed any wildlife; this only teaches the animal to associate backpackers with an easy meal.

Some other reasons it's a good idea to use a bear canister may not be so obvious:

Ease of Mind: If all your food is stored in a bear canister it creates a sense of security when you need or desire to leave camp for a few minutes or a few hours. As long as the lid is screwed on tight, raccoons and other little critters won't be able to get a free meal, leaving you free to enjoy the sunset or catch that fish!

Practicality: Keeps your food dry when it's raining! Just set on a hard surface (like a rock or log) upside down and the water can't get in. Remember the canisters aren't waterproof, just water resistant.

Organized: All your food is in one place all the time! No more searching through your pack for your next meal, just keep your snack food close to the top so they are easy to take out along the trail.

Comfort: No need to sit on the cold ground anymore, because your canister makes a great stool. Just make sure the canister doesn't get too close to the fire. It's also a good idea to keep your canister out of the direct sunlight to keep the contents from overheating. No one likes melted candy bars.



Bear Canister Rental Agreement

Each night you have a bear canister you will be charged a rental fee of **\$2.00** (plus Washington State sales tax). Rental fees will be collected when you are checking out your canister at Forks Outfitters. If your backcountry adventure is longer than you anticipated, additional rental fees will be due when it is returned.

Canisters must be **returned** during normal business hours to Forks Outfitters at the Ace Hardware checkstand. During the summer, our hours are 8am - 10pm and during the winter 8am - 9pm (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Canisters must be **thoroughly cleaned** before returning to Forks Outfitters. Use soap and warm water only. A \$10 fee will be charged for a canister not returned in clean condition. Any canister returned in a damaged condition may cause you to lose your deposit. This may include obscene smells that cannot be removed.

Each canister requires a refundable **\$65.00 deposit** (plus Washington State sales tax), payable by cash or credit card at the time of receiving the canister. Upon returning the canister the deposit will be refunded to you.

Bring this form with you to Forks Outfitters with your payment. Bear canisters are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Name: _____

Payment Method:

Address: _____

Cash _____

City: _____

Debit _____

State/Zip: _____

Credit Card _____

Phone: _____

Number of canisters: _____

Canister number: _____

Date rented: _____

Number of nights rented: _____

Date returned: _____

Deposit returned? _____ yes _____ no

If I have not returned my canister(s) by _____, I agree to forfeit my cash deposit or allow Forks Outfitters to keep the deposit previously charged to my credit card.

By signing below I agree to all terms of this agreement:

Signature: _____

Date: _____