Make your trashcan bear-resistant

Before modifying your trashcan to be bear-resistant using the following method, turn it on its side and stand on it. If the can collapses or the lid bends easily, these modifications will not keep a bear out. Also, contact your waste service provider to be sure they will service a modified can. In most cases, you will have to unlatch the cans before it can be serviced. The method below works for a variety of cans, but before buying and installing these materials, check your specific can dimensions and adjust as appropriate. Modified trash cans should still be kept secure until the morning of pickup in a garage, sturdy shed, or fastened to a tree or post. Commercially manufactured kits similar to this design are available, but some only offer a kit with 2 straps. If purchasing from those companies, buy 2 kits to follow our recommended design. For a permanent solution, ask your waste service provider for a commercially manufactured bear-resistant trashcan. For more information, visit: https://myfwc.com/bear

NOTE: These modifications may not stop more persistent bears from accessing your garbage.

Instructional video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQtNKiNi7gw&feature=youtu.be

Materials and *Tools* Needed:

- (1) Heavy-duty Trashcan
- (16) #10 Washers
- (8) #10-24 x $^{3}/_{4}$" (L) Machine Screws
- (8) #10-24 Lock Nuts
- (4) 4" (L) x 1" Nylon Webbing (1,000 lb. rating)
- (4) 10" (L) x 1" Nylon Webbing (1,000 lb. rating)
- (4) 1" PS22 Plastic Side Release Buckles (300 lb. rating)
- *Marker*
- *Wrench*
- *Awl*
- *Power Drill*
- $^{3}/_{16}$" *Drill Bit*
- *Flame*

Instructions:

1. Pre-drill (4) $^{3}/_{16}$" holes in the top of the **lid** of the can at locations A-D for the webbing and male part of the buckle (Figure 1). The holes should be on flat areas of the lid.

2. Slide (1) 4" piece of webbing through the slot on the male part of the buckle, then fold the webbing over on itself and ensure the cut ends are even with one another. Seal each end to prevent fraying AFTER they are inserted into buckle components.

3. Place the webbing over one of the pre-drilled holes in the lid ½" from the cut ends of the webbing. Then pass the awl through the doubled over webbing and pre-drilled hole to create a hole for (1) screw in the webbing.

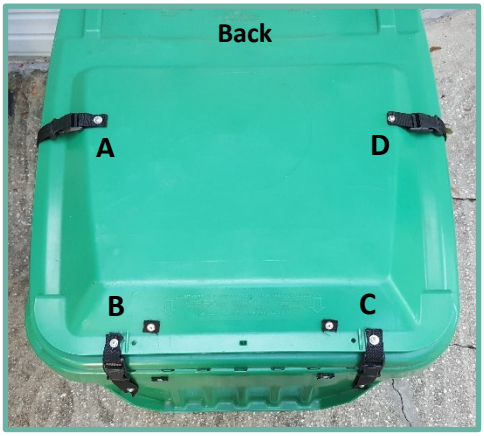

Figure 1. Modified can showing lid viewed from above.

4. Place (1) washer on (1) screw and pass the screw though the hole in the doubled over webbing and the pre-drilled hole in the upper surface of the can lid with the buckle end hanging over the edge of the lid.

5. Place (1) washer on the end of the screw and secure with (1) lock nut on the underside of the lid.

6. Repeat steps 2-5 for the three remaining pre-drilled lid holes.

7. Slide (1) 10” piece of webbing through the slot on the female part of the buckle, then fold the webbing over on itself and ensure the cut ends are even with one another. Seal each end to prevent fraying AFTER they are inserted into buckle components.

8. Pass the awl through the doubled over webbing ½” from the cut ends to create a hole for (1) screw.

9. Fasten the female part of the buckle to the male part of the buckle already attached to the lid.

10. Gently grasp the cut ends of the webbing with the female part of the buckle attached and pull downwards on the webbing with it touching the outside of the can body to determine where to pre-drill holes in the body of the can for the attachment of the female part of the buckle’s webbing. *NOTE: The strap should be snug enough to prevent a bear from accessing the inside of the can, but not so tight the buckle cannot be fastened. When construction is complete, no more than a ¼” gap should be present when the buckle is fastened, and upward force is applied to the lid (Figure 2).*

11. Mark the location of the pre-punched hole in the webbing on the body of the can with a marker.

12. Pre-drill a $^{3}/_{16}$" hole in the body of the can at marked location.

Figure 2. Modified can showing front corner viewed from the side.

13. Place (1) washer on (1) screw and pass the screw through the pre-punched hole in the doubled over webbing and pre-drilled hole in the body of the can.

14. Apply (1) washer on the end of the screw and secure with (1) lock nut on the inside of the can.

15. Repeat steps 12 - 15 for the remaining three strap locations.

Design adapted from Jim Durocher (JimTheKayakGuy).

NOTE: The design described above uses webbing and plastic buckles to modify a regular trashcan make it more bear-resistant. Designs that use other strong but inflexible materials like metal gate hasps, chain or steel cables can also be used in a similar manner, using two attachments on the front and two attachments on the sides that connect the lid tightly to the body of the trashcan.