

Animal Resistant Containers

How to Make a Complaint



WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

Solid Waste Management Regulations

Locations throughout Washoe County are more prone to visits from wild animals, including raccoons, coyotes, bears and even dogs. These animals may also be inclined to rummage through garbage containers, causing a list of other problems. This fact sheet provides information on how to make a complaint to the proper agency if animals are disturbing garbage containers in Washoe County.

- The Washoe County District Board of Health has regulatory oversight of issues related to storage of garbage, trash and rubbish. The solid waste management regulations developed by the Board of Health outline storage requirements for garbage, trash and rubbish in Section 040 of the regulations.
- Complaints regarding basic storage of solid waste should be directed to the Washoe County Health District (WCHD), Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division at (775) 328-2436, Monday – Friday (8am – 4:30pm).
- Complaints regarding animals accessing garbage or trash due to improper storage should be directed to WCHD at (775) 328-2434 Mon – Fri (8am – 4:30pm). For the purposes of this issue, animals include but are not limited to dogs, bears, raccoons and coyotes.
- If the WCHD receives two (2) or more valid complaints in a 12-month period, regarding animals accessing garbage due to improper storage, WCHD will require installation of an **approved** animal resistant container. The homeowner will be responsible for the cost of the container.
- **DO NOT** call the WCHD if an animal poses an imminent threat while accessing improperly stored solid waste. Please contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), local law enforcement or Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS).
- WCHD has legal authority to address solid waste issues only. Feeding wildlife or feral animal populations cannot be addressed or regulated by the Health District. Complaints can also be made via the Health District website at www.washoecounty.us/health.

List of Agency Phone Numbers:

Washoe County Health District	
Environmental Health Services Division	775-328-2434
Nevada Department of Wildlife	775-688-BEAR (2327)
Washoe County Regional Animal Services	775-353-8900
Washoe County Sheriff Office	775-328-3001
Washoe County Code Enforcement	775-328-6106
Reno Police Department	775-334-2175
Reno Code Enforcement	775-334-4636
Sparks Police Department	775-353-2231

- Agencies (such as NDOW, local law enforcement, code enforcement or WCRAS) who wish to make a referral to the WCHD as a result of a complaint regarding animals accessing solid waste that has been improperly stored should contact (775) 328-2434. Please provide any evidence that has been collected to support the allegation (e.g. photos, witness statements, etc.).

- Solid waste storage issues are not considered immediate public health threats; these complaints will only be addressed during regular work hours.

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<https://www.washoecounty.us/health/regulations.php>

**WASHOE COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT**

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Washoe County Health District
Environmental Health Services Division
PO Box 11130
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