

Bear Resistant Food Containers

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



Why are Bear Resistant Food Containers (BRFCs) Required?

Visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park are required to store their food and garbage in an approved bear resistant manner.

In Alaska, the opportunity to see bears in their natural environment is part of the wilderness experience. Unfortunately, if a bear obtains human food or garbage from a visitor once, it will seek it out again. If the bear becomes a threat to human safety, it may be killed. That is why it is illegal to feed a bear on purpose or by carelessly leaving food or garbage where bears can get to it.

Where can I get a BRFC?

A variety of BRFCs are available for loan, free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis at four visitor centers associated with the park.

The containers we offer are not the only approved BRFCs. Please visit the International Grizzly Bear Committee at igbconline.org to learn which items are approved and available for purchase.

Coolers, ice chests, plastic boxes, tents, dry bags, etc. are *not* approved food storage devices.

Things to know about BRFCs:

BRFCs are not waterproof and do not float. Bring plastic trash bags to line your container and make sure all of your food is waterproof.

Do not use BRFCs as a base for cooking stoves.

Bear electric fences are not a substitute for BRFCs.

While in use, take out only the food you need. Bear encounters can happen at any time.

Every BRFC is different. Ensure you know how to open, store, and properly maintain your BRFC before leaving civilization.

Slamming or wrenching the lids off of BRFCs will make them less effective over time.

Ursacks are approved for use, however are not recommended due to lack of adequate tree cover.

BRFCs can be mailed to Bettles or Fairbanks visitor centers via USPS if you cannot return in person. Approximate shipping cost is \$7.00 USD.

Gates of the Arctic Visitor Centers

Bettles Ranger Station

PO Box 26030 Bettles, AK 99726

Email: gaar_visitor_information@nps.gov
(907) 692-5494

Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Info Center

101 Dunkel St. #110 Fairbanks, AK 99701

Email: fair_interpretation@nps.gov
(907) 459-3730

Coldfoot Arctic Interagency Visitor Center

(907) 678-5209

Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station

(907) 661-3520



NPS Photo/ Ken Conger

BRFCs Available for Loan at Gates of the Arctic Visitor Centers



Name: Bear Vault
Best Use: Backpacking/Small Watercraft
Capacity (L): 11.5 liters
Capacity (cu. in.): 700 cubic inches
Dimensions: 12.7 x 8.7 inches
Weight: 2 lbs. 9 oz.



Name: Garcia
Best Use: Backpacking/Small Watercraft
Capacity (L): 10 liters
Capacity (cu. in.): 614 cubic inches
Dimensions: 12 x 8.8 inches



Name: Steel Drum River Barrel LARGE
Best Use: Large Watercraft
Capacity (L): 64.93 liters
Capacity (cu.in.): 3962.53 cubic inches
Dimensions: 21 x 15.5 inches
Weight: 15 lbs. 2.4 oz.



Name: Steel Drum River Barrel MEDIUM
Best Use: Large Watercraft
Capacity (L): 43.29 liters
Capacity (cu.in.): 2641.69 cubic inches
Dimensions: 14 x 15.5 inches
Weight: 14 lbs. 13.4 oz



Name: Steel Drum River Barrel SMALL
Best Use: Large Watercraft
Capacity (L): 32.47 liters
Capacity (cu.in.): 1981.27 cubic inches
Dimensions: 10.5 x 15.5 inches
Weight: 11 lbs 4.2 oz

*Sizes of steel BRFCs may vary.
Call or email Bettles or Fairbanks for more information about BRFCs.*