

IGBC Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program

IGBC Executive Committee



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IGBC Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program

- Remains important for grizzly bear conservation
 - Critical to Preventing Human-Bear Conflicts
- Effective in identifying flawed bear-resistant product designs
 - Only 30% to 50% of Products Pass the First Time Tested



Photo by Patti Sowka

- Testing program is visible and widely recognized by agencies and bear-resistant product manufacturers
 - Certified products containing IGBC-certified product logo available in many retail outlets and online
- Important partnerships result in a wide range of effective bear-resistant products
 - Agencies (State, Federal, Tribal, Local)
 - Public
 - Manufacturers
 - Waste Haulers

Program Components

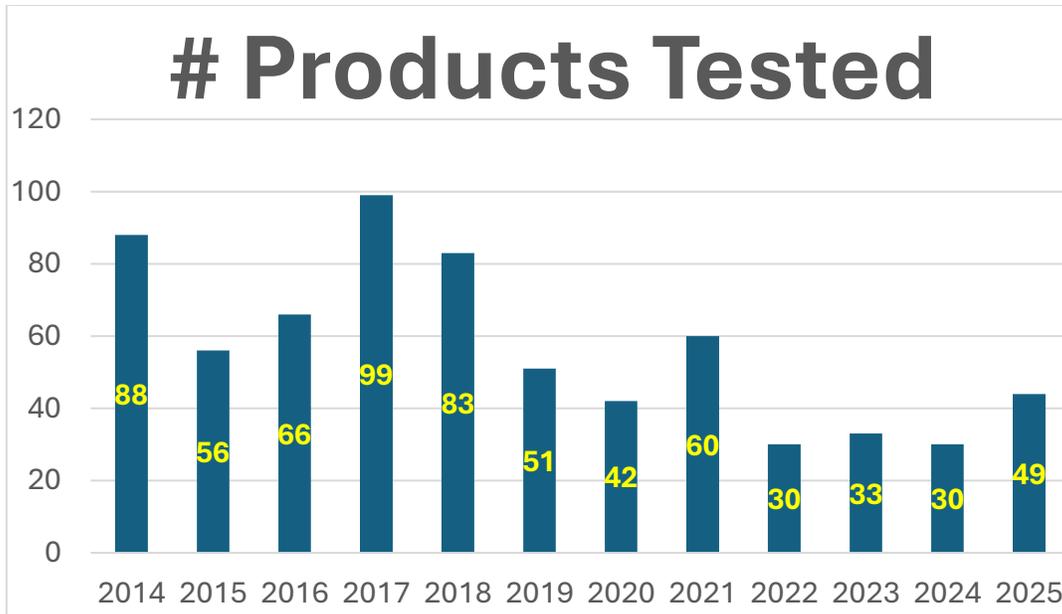
- Product testing
 - Record keeping/documentation
 - Database management (now includes over 1000 products)
 - Prepare certification letters
 - Maintain List of Certified Products
 - Administration
 - Updates to testing protocol, testing documents and website
 - Invoicing for testing fees for products tested by Washington State University (WSU) - (Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center collects fees related to products they test)
 - Collecting annual product certification renewal fees
 - Scheduling product tests
- Responding to information requests
- Monitoring product status (has product changed since testing?)
- Providing guidance to the public
- Documenting issues with or failures of bear-resistant products, and acting when necessary

Sources of Information Requests

- Public requests for information
 - Municipalities drafting new garbage ordinances
 - People visiting public lands
 - Other countries trying to prevent human-bear conflicts
- Agency requests for advice related to bear-resistant products
- Manufacturer inquiries related to testing

2025 Testing Program Headlines

- Slightly fewer than average products submitted for testing in 2025 - see page 5
- Updated IGBC Certified Bear-Resistant Products logo – added place for companies to include product certification number – see page 6
- Scott Jackson retired from the US Forest Service – loss of IGBC testing program liaison
- Looking forward to working closely with David Diamond, IGBC Executive Coordinator as new testing program liaison
- New bear-resistant product testing coordinator at the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center (GWDC) – Randy Gravatt retired from the GWDC
- Updated IGBC's list of certified bear-resistant products to only include products that are verified annually that they are being manufactured according to their original specifications, and that they are still available to consumers.
- First year since 2003 with no bear-resistant garbage cans submitted for testing
- Received high number of requests to test new product types – see page 7 and 8



N=687 products tested over 12 years

Ave= 57 products tested each year

Median=53

2025 Test Results

49 products tested: 45% pass (22 of 49)

- 28 coolers (12 pass/16 fail)
- 6 hard-sided backpacking canisters (1 pass/5 fail)
- 5 backpacking sacks (5 fail)
- 1 truck bed tonneau cover (1 fail)
- 2 panniers/ (2 pass)
- 7 metal garbage can enclosure (7 pass)



Photo by GWDC

UPDATED IGBC CERTIFIED BEAR-RESISTANT PRODUCTS LOGO



Product Certification Number Inserted Here

- Updated IGBC-certified product logo includes product certification number
- Companies are instructed to put logo on their certified products
- Logo widely recognized by agencies and product manufacturers



Photo by Patti Sowka

2025 Funding

- \$45,363 total testing fees collected
- \$18,727 administrative fees collected
- \$10,000 IGBC support
- \$7,000 of testing revenue sent to WSU

Innovative Products



Truck bed tonneau cover before test



And after test!

Photos by GWDC

CitiBin test #1



CitiBin test #2



CitiBin passed after test #3!

Photos by GWDC

Program Advancement Efforts

- Efficiently transferring money between program partners
- Providing the most useful information to the public
- Working to increase annual administrative fee compliance
- Adapting to testing of new product types
- Working with agencies, manufacturers, and industry representatives to ensure that the testing program considers other needs and perspectives related to bear-resistant products



Photo by Patti Sowka

One of the bears at the GWDC trying to break into a garbage can enclosure made by a company in Nevada.

Thank you to the following people and our testing facilities who make this important program possible:

- Chris Wiese, Randy Gravatt (ret.), and John Heine - Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center
- Chelsea Davis and Charlie Robbins - Washington State University Bear Center
- Chris Smith, Meghan Gilbert – Wildlife Management Institute
- David Diamond – Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Executive Coordinator and testing program liaison
- Special thank you to Scott Jackson (ret.) – US Forest Service – for the years of support he provided to the program

Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center



Photo by GWDC

Washington State University Bear Research Center



Photo by WSU