



Outdoor Collection Tips



Tips to Control Maggots and Other Pests

Maggots are a common, naturally occurring problem with many municipal organic collection programs. Before we separated our organics into the green cart, maggots were commonly found in residents' garbage bags or carts, even if tightly sealed. Maggots are fly larvae and occur when flies lay eggs on organic materials. Maggots are more common in warmer temperatures, and are only a concern during summer months. To prevent maggots from occurring we have to prevent mature flies from laying eggs in the green cart by eliminating odors and reducing their access to the food scraps in your green cart. While there is no guarantee that maggots can be totally eliminated, there are preventative measures you can use to reduce the likelihood of their appearance. Below are some methods to prevent maggots and other insect from entering your cart, and also ways to kill maggots found inside of your cart.

Prevent Odors— Food preparation tips:

- Flies are particularly attracted by protein sources, mostly meat and bones. Try waiting until the night before collection before placing these items in the green cart. Remember that all organics must be bagged in either a BPI Certified plastic compostable bag or an un lined paper bag.
- Drain as much liquid as possible from your organics.
- Wrap protein tightly in newspaper or other paper products before placing it in the green cart.
- If space permits, freeze smelly organics in newspaper or paper bags, then put in your cart the night before collection.

Prevent Odors—Organics Cart tips:

- The longer your organics remains in the green cart, the longer flies have the opportunity to breed in it. Put your green cart out for collection every week, even if it isn't full.
- Line the outer rim of the cart with salt or vinegar to prevent flies from entering the container. Make a spray bottle of vinegar to routinely spray cart when you bring out your organics. Flies are also repelled by the smell of certain herbs such as pennyroyal, camphor, eucalyptus, mint or bay. Try applying dabs of these herbal oils to the outside of your cart. Odor from rotting food can be minimized by sprinkling your cart with vinegar or baking soda.
- Clean your cart regularly using a solution of borax and water or vinegar and water. Alternatively, mild soaps can be used to clean your green cart. Please ensure no cleaning solution is left in the cart for collection. Be sure your green cart is dry before use.
- Remove all residual liquid from the bottom of your cart after collection to detract flies.
- Line the bottom of your cart with paper products such as crumpled newspaper, boxboard, fiber egg cartons, or greasy pizza boxes to absorb liquid and prevent material from sticking to the bottom of the cart. Large paper bags, such as leaf and yard waste bags, may also be used to line the cart.
- Store your cart in a well-ventilated area.



How to get rid of maggots currently in your cart?

- On nice weather days, open the lid of the cart to allow the birds to eat the maggots. Lid must be closed on collection day.
- Spray the top and inside with vinegar.
- Cover maggots with lime, salt, vinegar to kill maggots.
- Clean your cart using a solution of borax and water or vinegar and water. Alternatively, mild soaps can be used to clean your green cart. Please ensure no cleaning solution is left in the cart for collection.



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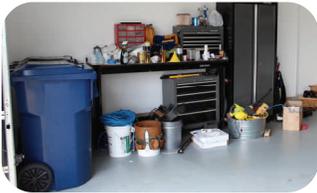
Tips to Prevent Larger Pests from Entering Carts

If you currently have issues with raccoons, squirrels, etc. with your garbage cart, those issues may persist with the addition of organics. If you do not have issues with pests now, you will not likely have issues by participating in the organics recycling program. Below are a few methods that may prevent animals from entering carts.



Secure cart closed with a heavy object or bungee cord

Heavy objects, like cinder blocks, bricks or sandbags may be placed on top of cart lid to deter animals from entering. A bungee cord or rope can be used to tie lid closed. Carts must be un-secured when placed out for collection. Carts that are secured shut will not be serviced by City crews.



Keep cart in garage

If space allows, carts kept inside garages or sheds will be protected more easily from animals. Cart must be wheeled to curb or alley line on collection day.



Install motion sensors

Place cart in an area where motion sensors will be activated if an animal approaches. Animals may be scared off from the lights.



Spray cart

If squirrels are getting in your cart, fill a spray bottle with cayenne pepper, a dash of vegetable oil and dish soap, and water, and spray your cart regularly. If raccoons are getting at your cart, spray cart with ammonia, or put a little ammonia in your trash bag before you tie it up. Ammonia smells like urine to raccoons and is highly offensive to their smell.

Have cart damage?

City crews deliver and maintain all carts. If your cart is damaged, call Solid Waste & Recycling at 612-673-2917 to request for your cart to be repaired or replaced at no cost.

