

Organics recycling

Outdoor collection tips



Prevention tips for odors and insect pests

If you do not currently have issues with odors and pests in your garbage, it is unlikely you will have issues with organics recycling. However, here are some tips in case those issues do come up:

Set out cart for collection every week

The longer organics stay in the cart, the more materials will break down and produce stronger odors. Leaving organics in the cart for longer also gives pests more chances to breed.

Store cart in a well-ventilated area

It is only when organics decompose anaerobically (without oxygen) that odors may appear. Keeping the cart in a well-ventilated area will help prevent this problem.

Line cart with paper products

Paper egg cartons or pizza delivery boxes can be placed in the bottom of the cart to absorb liquid and prevent bags from sticking and tearing. Large paper bags are also an option.

Clean cart regularly

When liquids or food residue accumulate in the cart, rinse the cart with a solution of borax and water, vinegar and water, or mild dish soap. Be sure the cart is dry before placing bagged organics in it for collection.

Mask odors

Try sprinkling the cart with baking soda to absorb odors. Repel insects using essential oils such as basil, lavender, lemongrass, rosemary or bay. Apply a little bit of the oil to the outside rim of the cart every week or so.

Address pests early

If you notice insect larvae in the cart, cover them with salt or white vinegar to prevent them from hatching.

Organics recycling

Outdoor collection tips

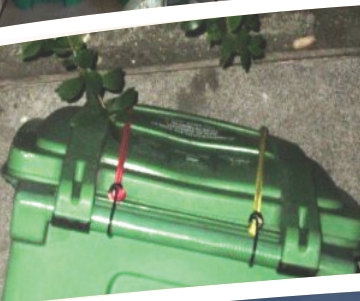


Prevention tips for larger animal pests



Keep carts in garage or shed

If space allows, carts kept inside garages or sheds will be better protected from animals. Keep in mind that carts must still be rolled to the curb or alley on collection day.



Keep carts securely closed

If you can't store your carts inside, a heavy object like a brick may be placed on top of the cart lid to prevent animals from entering. Otherwise, a bungee cord or rope can be used to keep the lid closed. However, please make sure the heavy objects, cords or ropes are removed when the cart is placed out for collection. Carts that are secured shut will not be collected by the city's hauler.



Install motion sensors

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



Spray cart

If squirrels are getting into carts, spray the carts regularly with a mixture of cayenne pepper, vegetable oil, dish soap and water. If raccoons are getting into carts, spray carts with ammonia or put a little ammonia on bags before placing them in the cart. Ammonia smells like urine to raccoons and is highly offensive to them.



Have cart damage?

If carts or lids are damaged, call utility billing at 952.924.2111. City staff will determine if it should be repaired or replaced.