



ANIMAL DAMAGE WHAT CAN I DO?

Squirrels and raccoons can damage refuse and recycling collection containers. There is no solution or safe chemical, we are aware of, that is 100 % effective in deterring animals from “gnawing” on containers.

However, where damage caused by animals is a problem we have a few tips that have proven helpful.

- Use, bleach or vinegar which is a natural animal repellent to keep animals from getting into, knocking over, and / or damaging the refuse can. Fill a standard spray bottle with one cup of bleach or vinegar; add a cup or so of water. Spray the can (lids to), and the bags of refuse you set in the can. This will leave a smell that typically prevents animals from coming near them.
- Animals (rodents) are drawn to the smell of food in your refuse cans. Always keep your lid on the refuse can when refuse is in the container. Place food waste in smaller plastic bags. Tie the bag shut tightly prior to placing the food waste bag in a larger garbage bag in the container. The above will minimize the odor which attracts animals. Certain items such as raw meat or meat droppings, etc. should be triple bagged prior to placing in the larger garbage bag – refuse container.
- If you are having problems with animals cans should be placed in a garage or storage shed. If one is not available a small wooden box with a hinged door, and a hinged lid, for easier loading, can be built to store your refuse/recycling containers.
- If placing containers in an enclosed area until collection day is not an option, use rubber bunge straps or bunge cords to secure the lid. Straps typically have an “s” hook on each end. Connect the hook to one can handle, run the strap through the lid handle hook the other “s” hook to the opposite handle.
- If you notice damage, wash containers with bleach / rinse the container occasionally, etc.
- Set garbage out early in the morning before the garbage truck comes by, not the night before pickup. Night time is typically when most animal rummaging is occurs!

Cost saving tip. The plastic bags you receive at retail outlets and grocery stores can be used to dispose of **food waste**. Just make sure to tie the bag shut tightly before tossing it in the refuse cart. To further dissuade animals use a large garbage bag in your container. Place the smaller “grocery” type bags, tied shut, in the larger bag, wrap a twist tie around the larger bag to secure it. The tie can be opened and tied shut again when you need to place additional smaller food waste disposal bags in the larger bag you have placed in the container.



Have a question? Give us a call: 630-469-5005 ● 708 344-5000