KEEPPING PESTS OUT OF YOUR GREEN BIN

Pests are naturally attracted to food scraps and smelly waste.

By using your green bin (a container designed to resist pests) and following some simple tips, you can easily prevent (or control) pests.

How to prevent them

1. Keep lids on your organics containers securely closed at all times.
2. Empty your kitchen container into your green bin on a regular or even daily basis.
3. Clean your bins frequently with baking soda or another gentle cleaner. Deodorize by sprinkling baking soda, garden lime, white vinegar or biodegradable laundry detergent (no bleach) in your bins.
4. Absorb liquids by lining your bins with paper liner bags available at local stores, or using sheets of newspaper or cereal boxes.
5. Store your green bin in a shaded, cool area to reduce the rate of decomposition.
6. Place spoiled food in your bin just before collection. Consider freezing meat/bones in paper bags and place in your bin on your collection day.
7. Bury food scraps so flies cannot access it; cover food scraps with shredded paper or facial tissues.
8. Deter flies by dabbing vinegar on the outside rim of your containers, or by hanging bruised leaves of mint or bay in clusters on your green bin.
9. Set out your green bin for collection every week, even if it is not full. Set it our by 7 a.m. on your collection day (not the night before).
10. Replace your bins if they are cracked or broken.

How to control them

1. Do not use chemical pesticides.
2. When you notice fruit flies, fill a spray bottle with white vinegar and spray the top contents of your organics containers.
3. Trap fruit flies in the kitchen by placing a small amount of cider vinegar with a drop of dish soap in a juice glass and set next to your kitchen container. The soap prevents the fruit flies from escaping. Change the contents at least weekly, pouring the old vinegar into the green bin.
4. Sprinkle salt, white vinegar, garden lime or Diatomaceous Earth (a natural fossil product) on top of fly larvae (maggots).
5. If storing your green bin outside, hang it on a hook out of the reach of animals. Place it away from railings.

Got a tip to share? Contact us on Facebook or Twitter

Region of Waterloo
Waste Management

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