



ORGANIC WASTE & OCCURRING PROBLEMS

Maggots are a common problem in lot of waste collection procedures. In Far North Queensland maggots can be found in residents' garbage bins even if they are tightly sealed. While there is no guarantee maggots can be totally eliminated, there are preventative measures you can use.

Maggots are fly larvae and occur when flies lay eggs on organic waste. They typically have a 7-day life cycle with fluctuations depending on temperatures and other conditions such as humidity.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES: MAGGOTS & ODOUR NUISANCES

Ensure you:

- Wrap your meat/fish scraps in a sheet of newspaper before putting them in your bin.
- Freeze your meat/fish scraps until collection day.
- Put a layer of green waste on top of your food scraps.
- Rinse your wheelie bin with a mild detergent (vinegar) & water.

If you have maggots in your bin, try the following:

- Open the lid to allow birds to eat the maggots.
- Spray the top and inside with vinegar.

GARBAGE & FLIES

Flies are attracted to the odour of rotting food. Hygiene is important to reduce this odour. Your wheelie bin should be cleaned regularly using a solution of vinegar and water or other mild detergents. Please ensure no cleaning solution is left in the bin. Wash and rinse your bin over a landscaped area such as a lawn or shrubbery, not near gutters or storm drains as the rinse water might wash down the drains and end up in local creeks and waterways. Be sure your bin is dry before use.

- After collection day remove all residual liquid from the bottom of your bin to detract flies.
- Line the bottom of your bin with paper products such as crumpled newspaper, boxboard, egg cartons, take-out trays or greasy pizza boxes to absorb liquid and prevent material from sticking to the bottom.
- Odours can also be eliminated using garbage bin deodorisers.



The longer your organic waste remains in the wheelie bin, the longer flies have the opportunity to breed in it. Flies are attracted to bins if wet and rotting foods are exposed.

- Try covering your waste with a layer of dry leaf and green waste or paper products.
- Certain odours will repel flies such as pennyroyal, camphor, eucalyptus, mint or bay.
- Line the outer rim of the wheelie bin with salt or vinegar.
- Sprinkle salt or lime inside as a further preventative measure.

If you have discovered maggots in your bin, try to cover the maggots with lime, salt or vinegar, and then clean your bin thoroughly after the next collection day. Ensure there is no liquid residue in the bottom.

- Sprinkle your bin with vinegar or baking soda as well to eliminate odours.
- Store your bin in a well-ventilated area.

Flies are attracted by protein sources, typically meat & fish:

- Try waiting until the night before collection day before placing food scraps into the bin.
- Drain as much liquid as possible from the organic waste.
- Wrap food tightly in newspaper or other paper products before placing into the wheelie bin.
- If space permits, freeze organic waste in newspaper etc. and dispose just before collection day & **don't forget to put your bin out!**

Should you require further information or assistance regarding *HOW TO PREVENT ORGANIC WASTE ODOUR NUISANCES* please contact your Environmental Health Officer at Council's Innisfail Office, 70 Rankin Street, Innisfail (07 4030 2264) or Council's Tully Office, Tully Civic Centre, 38-40 Bryant Street, Tully (07 4043 9140).

Kind regards,

Your Environmental Service Team

