



With the summer coming here are some useful tips for storing your waste

- The lid should be kept closed on the bin at all times.
- All food waste, particularly items such as meat and fish, should be double bagged and effectively closed. The same applies to animal waste.
- Recycle as much waste as possible to reduce the amount of waste left in the bin.
- Do not leave waste food exposed inside the home before putting it in the bin. Flies can lay eggs during that time and it can only take 24 hours after the eggs are laid until maggots emerge. Uncovered bins inside the kitchen can also allow flies to lay eggs on waste food.
- Squeeze the air out of bags used to contain food waste, etc before they are tied and put in the bin. The lack of air should reduce smells along with slowing down general decomposition and help slow down any maggot development.
- Do not leave dog/cat food uncovered, again flies can lay their eggs in it.
- Maggots will only appear in the bin if the eggs have been laid in a suitable food source for them to develop. If bins are kept closed, flies should not be able to enter to lay their eggs especially if it is properly wrapped when put in the bin.
- It has also been suggested that solid waste from nappies are emptied in the toilet before being double bagged and put in the bin. Real nappies such as 'Terry Towels' are recommended as they are much more eco friendly and will reduce the amount of waste in the bin.
- There is no evidence of any known adverse health effects as a result of a two weekly refuse collection. One Council had consulted their Medical Officer for Health who checked their records. These showed no indication of an increase in gastro-intestinal disease following the change to a two weekly collection. There is no proven research that links refuse with ill health in our modern society.
- Preventing flies laying eggs on a suitable food source, is the best way of preventing maggots and hence the need to practise strict control over hygiene. Flies are all around no matter what type of collection service is in operation. Maggots in wheelie bins will not cause any health problems.
- Wheeled bins are much better for protecting the contents from cats, dogs, foxes etc helping keep Hart streets cleaner.
- Cleaning the bin and the use of insecticides / fly sprays will reduce the problem.

How to get rid of Maggots in your refuse bin

Maggots will only appear in the bin if eggs have been laid in food waste by flies. Most of the maggots will be removed once your bin has been emptied. By following the steps up above you can prevent the infestation of maggots in your bin.

- The only effective way to get rid of maggots is to remove them along with the contents of your bin.
- After your bin has been emptied clean and disinfect it thoroughly, just using boiling water can easily kill maggots.