



## ANIMAL DAMAGE WHAT CAN I DO?

Carts are convenient, help clean up garbage day, and help control costs for residents. Carts also require a modest amount of care be taken to maintain the physical integrity of the cart (occasional cleaning and a storage area).

Squirrels and raccoons can damage refuse and recycling collection carts. 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 and / or damaging the carts or other refuse cans. Fill a standard spray bottle with one cup of bleach or vinegar; add a cup or so of water. Spray the carts (lids to), and the bags of refuse you set in them. 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. 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 cart. 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 – cart.
- Carts 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 you notice damage, wash carts with bleach / rinse the cart 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 cart. 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 cart.



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