

Suggestions for keeping critters out of your compost bin.

The best solution is to store your compost container in a garage, closed shed or an animal proof structure.

Additional options to help keep critters out of your garbage and compost containers:

- Hose out your garbage containers regularly with soap and drain them well.
- Set up garbage cans on a level surface and in such a way that they can't be knocked over or suspend garbage containers in the air.
- Use a motion detector light or motion detector sprinkler near the garbage container that will come on when a raccoon/critter is near.
- To deter raccoons, dust the trash container lids with baby powder. Raccoons don't like the feel of "dust" on their paws.
- Make sure there is no other food debris around your house such as pet food on the porch or bird seed or fruit on the ground that is attracting the raccoons/critters to your property.
- Play a portable radio near the garbage area at night. Select an 'all-talk' station.

Effective Odor Repellants:

- Leave an article of human scented clothing near the trash container area.
- Sprinkle ammonia on a rag and place it on top of the garbage container.
- Place mothballs around the garbage area. The unpleasant scent will mask the inviting odor of ripe garbage from sensitive raccoon noses.
- Coyote urine which can be purchased from sporting goods stores can also make an effective repellent.