How to Prevent Maggots in Your Bin
Take Care of Your Waste

Won't leaving rotting food in my wheeled bin over two weeks cause health hazards?
It has not been proven that an alternate week collection service causes health hazards. Your bin won’t smell much worse after a fortnight than it does after a week as long as basic housekeeping rules are followed. The bin lid should always be closed to stop flies getting in and laying eggs that produce maggots.

However, your bin is an excellent food source and breeding ground for flies, but there are many things you can do to help prevent attracting flies.

**Flies are attracted by Smells:**
- double bag or wrap in newspaper, food waste such as meat and bones and pet waste, this will help to reduce the smell and stop the flies laying eggs on the food
- rinse polystyrene food trays, yoghurt pots and other food packaging that cannot be recycled to reduce the smell of your refuse
- sprinkle vinegar in your bin to neutralise odours
- rinse your bin out regularly if possible and keep it clean by bagging everything before putting it in the bin
- if possible store the bin away from direct sunlight to reduce smells
- keep the bin lid shut, if it's broken or does not shut properly call Corby Borough Council on 01536 464242
- hang an insecticidal strip inside your bin
- home compost your kitchen vegetable waste in a home compost bin, call 01536 464242 for details about discounted compost bins.
- consider purchasing a food digester, these allow you to compost meat and bones as well as vegetable matter tel 01159 114372 or visit [www.greencone.com](http://www.greencone.com)
- If nappies are included in your waste double bag these also, or consider using real reusable nappies - take advantage of Northamptonshire County Council's offer contact the Real Nappy Co-ordinator - Rebecca Moody, telephone 07850 064494 or visit [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Environment/Waste/nappy_campaign](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Environment/Waste/nappy_campaign)

**In the Kitchen:**
- don't 'store' food waste and unrisned food containers in your kitchen bin, empty it as soon as possible and seal the bin liner before placing in your black refuse bin
- the easiest way to sort your refuse from your recycling is to separate as you go. You may find it more convenient to have two small kitchen bins, one for recycling and one for your refuse
- keep all food covered up and bag and bin waste straight away
- try not to prepare too much food, so reducing the amount of food you throw away and SAVE MONEY
- try using the fragranced bin liners that can purchased from some stores

**And Finally if you do get Maggots…**
Maggots are the larva stage of the common housefly. Flies are attracted to food and other rubbish. Maggots only exist if flies have been allowed to have access to your rubbish. So if flies settle on your rubbish they may lay eggs, which turn into maggots. Use insecticidal spray, that kills crawling insects, purchased from supermarkets or DIY stores, to kill the maggots and then rinse your bin with disinfectant if possible.