

Maggots

What are maggots?

Maggots are the larva stage of a number of fly species, including the common housefly. Flies are attracted to food and other rubbish, laying their eggs on the rubbish, which hatch into maggots. The maggots form pupae and hatch into flies. The whole of this life-cycle can take up to 10 days in warm weather, and up to a month in cold weather.

Why am I getting maggots?

Maggots only exist if flies have been allowed to have access to rubbish. So if flies settle on your rubbish they may lay eggs, which will then hatch into flies.

How can I prevent maggots?

If flies don't come into contact with your rubbish then you will not get maggots. Following these simple guidelines should prevent you from getting maggots:

- ✓ Make sure that you never leave any food, including pet food, uncovered. Flies can lay eggs on food before it goes in the bin.
- ✓ In the black bin you can tie rubbish tightly in plastic bags, in the brown bin you may only wrap food waste lightly in newspaper.
- ✓ Ensure that the lid of your bin is always kept closed.
- ✓ Store your wheeled bin out of direct sunlight, as the sun will warm up the bin and increase smells, attracting flies

How do I get rid of maggots?

If maggots do get into your bin, most of them will disappear when your bin is emptied.

- ✓ Maggots and fly eggs can be killed by using boiling water and some cleaning products (Remember - always read the label!).
- ✓ Clean/wash your bin out after it has been emptied. If you don't want to do this yourself, you can get in touch with professional bin cleaners.
- ✓ Try using a cleaning product with a fragrance, which will help to deter the flies from your bin.

For further information about refuse and recycling collections, please contact, Technical and Environmental Services on 028 9049 4600 or email recycle@castlereagh.gov.uk .