

Keep Rodents out of Your Composter

There are a number of attractants that could bring rodents and other wildlife on to your property. Here are a few tips to ensure you can keep reducing waste and making great compost for your garden without attracting wildlife.



Use a Solid Sided Bin

A closed bin will make it more difficult for rodents and other wildlife to get into your compost material. You can purchase a plastic one or make your own out of various materials.

Don't add cooked food

Don't add meat and fish or anything strong smelling like cheese and fats into the bin. No grains either. Egg shells can be an attractant as well so rinse them before placing them in the bin. Bury the food waste into the middle of the pile, sprinkle with a bit of soil and cover well.

Tend to your compost

Rodents could move into a neglected compost pile. Make sure you 'disturb' your bin often. Mix the contents at least once a week.

Use wire mesh

If your bin does not have a bottom, place wire mesh down first as a base. It is recommended to use 16 or 18 gauge wire mesh (that's the strength of the mesh). Mesh should not have openings larger than 1/4 inch. Chicken wire is not strong enough and holes are too big.



Keep your composter out in the open

Move your composter away from fences or other structures. Rodents like to run along fences or between structures.

Remove other attractants in your yard

Rodents and other wildlife will be attracted to other things such as bird feeders, BBQs, dog food left out, household garbage or rotten fruit. Clean these up quickly to avoid any problems and store your garbage securely.

Further information can be found at:

www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/getting-rid-rodents

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/pesticides-pest-management/managing-pests/animals/rodents