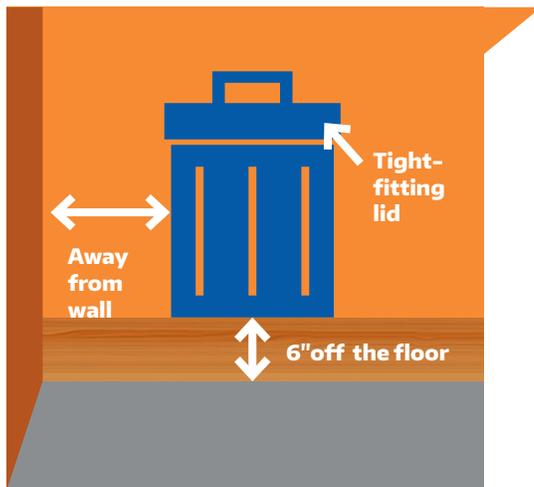


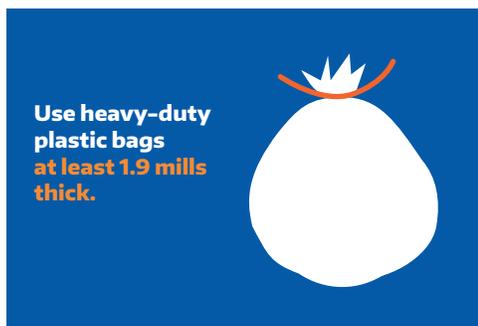
# Building Garbage Control and Compactor Maintenance

Compactor rooms that are not well maintained are perfect breeding grounds for pests and can undermine building-wide pest control efforts. **Just one bag of improperly stored food waste can feed hundreds of cockroaches and rodents.** Building management can reduce pests by:

## Controlling Garbage



- Use garbage containers with tight-fitting lids and place them six inches off the floor and away from walls. The building should be able to properly store three days' worth of garbage between sanitation pick-ups.
- Use only heavy-duty plastic bags (at least 1.9 mills thick). Tie bags tightly at the top to minimize leakage and spills.
- Label clearly where residents should put garbage and recycling. Remind residents to rinse recyclables and break down large items such as cardboard boxes.
- Remind residents to put tied bags of household garbage down compactor chutes.
- Never place garbage in undesignated areas or leave outside of bags or containers.



## Keeping Garbage Areas Clean

- Sweep and clean common areas frequently to remove litter that attracts pests.
- Keep the sidewalk around the building clean and grease-free.
- Regularly inspect garbage containers for gnaw marks, holes, cracks, rusting or other signs of disrepair. Replace as needed.
- Scrub and wash garbage storage areas and compactor rooms often to prevent grease build-up.
- Keep all food waste in sealed containers until right before sanitation pick-up.



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of pests.**

- Place garbage on the curb as close to collection time as possible; preferably the morning of sanitation pick-up instead of the night before.
  - ◆ The longer garbage is left out, the more time pests have to find it and feed.
  - ◆ The more garbage pests find, the more attracted they'll be to the building.

## **Maintaining Compactors and Compactor Rooms**

- Inspect compactors and compactor rooms frequently and repair issues immediately.
  - ◆ Paint or use anti-corrosive products to prevent rust on metal parts.
  - ◆ Install door sweeps on compactor room doors.
  - ◆ Ensure garbage chute doors close properly.
- Eliminate strong odors coming from compactor rooms by cleaning. Pests will be attracted to food odors, even if deodorizers are used. Use environmentally friendly products such as enzyme cleansers for floor drains and in chutes to address odors.
- Clean the inside of the chute weekly.
- Sweep and mop compactor room floors regularly.
- Deep-clean compactors at least annually. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Provide residents an alternative to the compactor chute for oversized garbage and recyclables.
- Have the pest management professional (PMP) monitor for pest activity in the compactor room on each service visit and treat as appropriate.
- See [Pesticide Safety for Building Owners, Managers and Staff](#) for information on safe pest control.