



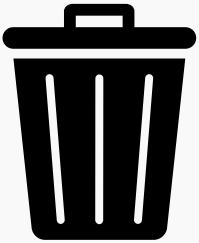
2025

425 E. Broad St.
Westfield, NJ 07090

Westfield Regional Health Department

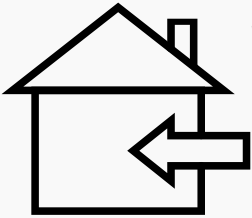
GUIDELINES

for Keeping Raccoons Out of Garbage



Use Animal-Proof Garbage Containers

- **Locking lids:** Choose bins with secure, tight-fitting or locking lids.
- **Bungee cords:** You can also strap lids shut with bungee cords or ratchet straps if raccoons are especially persistent.



Store Garbage Indoors Until Collection Day

- Keep garbage inside a garage, shed, or other enclosed space until the morning of pickup to eliminate overnight access, especially if it contains strong-smelling food scraps.



Clean Garbage Cans Regularly

- Rinse bins with a water and bleach solution to remove food odors that attract raccoons.



Use Repellents or Deterrents (Optional)

- **Motion-activated lights or sprinklers** can startle raccoons and discourage nighttime visits.

It's important to stay alert for signs of unusual or potentially dangerous behavior. If you observe any of the following, please contact the police immediately:

- A raccoon that appears lethargic, disoriented, or unusually aggressive
- Staggering, trembling, or difficulty walking
- Unprovoked attacks or attempts to approach humans or pets
- Excessive drooling or foaming at the mouth