Best Practices: Rats, raccoons and small animals

The Green Cone food waste digester is far less likely to attract vermin and small animals than other methods of food waste management such as traditional composting or collection for pickup. This is due to the decomposition process, which when fully active covers the waste in a mold blanket that is unappealing to animals, and also occurs below ground level and therefore reduces any attractant odors.

In some circumstances, however, animals can become attracted to the fresh waste that has been deposited in the cone. The round shape and smooth surface of the exposed areas are all but impossible breech with teeth and claws and are a significant deterrent, but some animals may look to access the waste by burrowing into the ground around the cone and chewing through the plastic basket. If there are animals in your area or a rat infestation that you’re aware of, there are some simple alternatives that will ensure the integrity of the cone for its lifetime.

Option 1: The rat basket

By taking the time to protect the plastic basket with wire mesh before burying it you can make it impenetrable. Animals may initially burrow down, but will stop when they’re unable to access the waste.

2 metres chicken wire (usually 36" wide)
12- 14 nylon zap straps
wire cutters

1. Wrap the black basket with the chicken wire, leaving about 12” hanging below, to be folded up on the bottom.
2. Use the zap straps to secure chicken wire to the basket where it meets, on the bottom and around the rim (just below it)
3. Cut the wire that comes above the rim in four or five radial slices so that it can be folded down flat to ground level to make an apron.
4. Then secure the black and green cones to the baskets, put it in the hole, fill, and cover the wire apron with dirt.

It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes, or cost you more than $15

For more information, visit the website at www.greencone.ca or email info@greencone.ca
Option 2: The Boulder border

Rodents, and particularly raccoons, can be particularly precise excavators, digging a moat to make King Arthur proud. But they can also be pretty simply dissuaded. This method can work by itself or in conjunction with the rat basket. This approach basically rings the cone rim with boulders that will fall on the animals when they try to burrow under them.

Boulders, rocks or bricks 5” in diameter or larger – enough to ring the cone

Place the boulders around the base of the cone, resting on the rim but allowing air movement.

Establishing the Cone Environment

Regardless of which approach is chosen, or even if no steps are required, it’s a good idea to establish the environment before adding large amounts of animal attractants (meat, bones, dairy, oil products and foods cooked with oils). In normal circumstances the mold colony will be well established within a month of use, particularly if the accelerant power is used as a primer during that period.