

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION

## Fact Sheet: Trash Storage

**Did You Know?** Smell is one of a rodent’s most important senses. Rodents can gnaw through concrete, heavy metal, and brick. Rodents can jump 3 ft. vertically and 4 ft. horizontally. Rodents are known to be vectors of 35 diseases worldwide. Improper trash or garbage storage provides places for rodents to eat and live.

### Improper Trash Storage/Facility



### Proper Trash Storage/Facility



**FACT:** Failure to keep waste container lids closed at all times & failure to remove trash or refuse from premises are violations of DC Law.

### Recommendations

- Install & utilize trash compactors.
- Utilize heavy-duty plastic trash containers.
- Always use undamaged trash containers.
- Dispose of food waste in a garbage disposal.
- Store waste containers at least 4 ft. away from walls, fences, or other structures.