

## Something's buzzing in the air...

*City offers tips to minimize wasp stings when setting out your waste.*

August 16, 2016

Wasps are posing a serious concern for the safety of residents and waste collectors, especially for those who are allergic.



As fall approaches and temperatures get cooler, food supplies diminish making wasps more aggressive and the risk of stings increases. Some people can have very serious and even life-threatening reactions to wasp stings.

Residents can follow these simple tips to minimize the risk of wasp stings for them and their waste collectors:

- Ensure garbage bags are tied up and cans are covered with lids.
- Keep waste storage area clean.
- Bag empty wine crates, as wasps are attracted to sugar and alcohol.
- Remove wasp nests from garbage areas as soon as they are discovered.
- Use wasp traps to distract them from the garbage area.
- Pick up all apples from lawns.

If you have a compost pile, make sure to turn it regularly, keep it wet, and always cover fresh waste such as apples and vegetables with dry leaves or soil.

Wasps will seize any opportunity for easy food, so protect yourself and your garbage collector by keeping your waste enclosed and the surrounding area clean.

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**For more information:**

[edmonton.ca/collectorsafety](http://edmonton.ca/collectorsafety)

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