

Press Release

Aurich Rural Council introduces bio filter lids to combat bin maggots and the smell from (bio-)waste

The problem is not new: As soon as the weather turns warmer, bio-waste stinks to high heaven. Residents are plagued by the unpleasant smells emanating from their bins, and the maggots that proliferate inside them. But the residents of the Aurich district in the state of Lower Saxony in Germany are being offered a remedy that will work when measures such as keeping the bin in the shade and wrapping up waste in newspapers have ceased to be effective. This “wonder weapon” is a biofilter lid for rubbish bins and bio-waste bins. As head of the Aurich District Council, Harm-Uwe Weber is managing director of the Materialkreislauf- und Kompostwirtschaft GmbH (Material Recycling and Composting Co.), and together with leading company representative Hans-Hermann Dörnath, he gave a good presentation of the new biofilter bin lids in the village of Großefehn (situated 10 km south-east of the town of Aurich).



The biofilter lid fits all the usual, commercially available types of wheel rubbish bin (i.e. bins with capacities of up to 240 litres). Its design is simple yet extremely effective. The seal running all around the inside edge of the lid forms a barrier that prevents flies from entering the bin and laying eggs. And where there are no eggs, there won't be any maggots. In the biofilter, which is the core component in the biofilter lid, enzymes transform the gases that form during the decomposition process into harm-

less, and odourless, substances. In addition, the levels of moisture inside bio-waste bins fitted with the biofilter lid help reduce the spread into the atmosphere of mould spores. And that is particularly good news for allergy sufferers. The filter material in the lid must be replaced every two years, but it is perfectly easy to dispose of, for it can be thrown straight into any bio-waste bin.

Besides the improved cleanliness and hygiene, there is one other very good reason for obtaining a biofilter lid. It is this: even in the warm summer months, less frequent rubbish collections are no longer a problem. Aurich Rural Council has introduced a bin-identification system, so that the waste-collection charges household pay are in accordance with the number of times their bins are emptied. When bio-waste bins and rubbish bins are fitted with biofilter lids, the bins need only be emptied by the rubbish-collection service when they are full, and not because they are alive with maggots and stink to high heaven. That means the biofilter lid helps reduce household costs.

Scientific studies have shown that the biofilter lid is extremely effective as a means of dealing with unpleasant smells and maggots. That is why a considerable number of district councils and town councils have had biofilter lids fitted to their waste-collection bins for years.

Further information about the functionality and cost of the biofilter lid and the replaceable filter material are set out in the Environmental Tips and Waste-Collection Guide for 2007 published by Aurich Rural District Council (Landkreis Aurich). Alternatively, Herr Janssen of the Aurich District Council helpline (tel. no. +49 (0)4941/16-554) will be pleased to answer your questions.

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