



Winter, Waste and Compactors

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WINTER WEATHER & COMPACTORS

When winter weather settles in across much of Canada and the US with colder than normal temperatures at times, it can affect many different machines and lubricants that have practical limits when it comes to operating temperatures. Usual winter weather is not generally an issue but when the weather drops to 'bitterly cold', here are some hints and tips. Many of these apply to all types of waste equipment, not just compactors.

HELPFUL WINTER TIPS FOR WASTE EQUIPMENT

At **extremely** cold temperatures, here are some tips that will be helpful: -

- Keep door seals clean & free of debris and liquids which may freeze and prevent the door from opening,
- If you normally lock your loading door, keep de-icer on hand,
- If your loading door is frozen closed - please do not pour warm/hot water on it ... find a way to thaw it by using de-icer or a source of dry heat,
- When having your compactor dumped, ensure the plug end does not get dropped in rain puddles or snow as this can cause issues when trying to plug it back in,

CYCLING COMPACTORS: run the compactor more frequently in the extreme cold. For example, when staff are taking out cardboard, on a break etc., push the button to cycle the compactor.

FROZEN BAGS: we recommend that the waste bags be allowed to freeze outside the compactor before being cycled through the compactor. For example – place the waste bags beside the

compactor for an hour or two and when frozen, cycle through the compactor.

LITHIUM GREASE: the option exists to spray the inside of the chute with lithium grease which will deter frozen waste/liquid from sticking to the inside of the chute in extreme cold weather. The general process, which would have to follow your own H&S guidelines, would be to power down the compactor after a lift, while it is empty, and spray the inside of the chute as far back as can be safely reached.

