

Worm Bin Quick Start

Steps to make an indoor worm composting bin

What You Need

1



Red Wiggler worms
(*Eisenia fetida*)

2



Food scraps
& bedding

3



Plastic bin,
tray, & drill

How to Build

1. Use an opaque plastic bin that is 25"x 18"x 7" inches or larger. Drill $\frac{3}{16}$ inch or larger holes every 4-5 inches on the top, sides, and bottom of the bin.
2. Place tray underneath to collect castings that may fall out of the bottom holes.
3. Add small amount of food scraps to the bin. Cover with 1 pound of worms.
4. Fill bin with bedding. Spray bedding until damp.
5. As worms get used to their new home, some may try to leave the bin. Shine light over new bins for 2 days to prevent worm escapes.

In 1 week, increase feeding to 3.5 pounds a week per pound of worms. New worm bins process food scraps slowly. It takes time for microorganisms to grow.

Composting Resources

- *Worms Eat My Garbage* by Mary Appelhof
- EPA How to Create and Maintain an Indoor Worm Composting Bin www.epa.gov/recycle/how-create-and-maintain-indoor-worm-composting-bin
- King County Worm Composting Resources - www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/natural-yard-care/composting/worm-composting.aspx
- Clark County Master Composter Recycler Program - www.clarkcountycomposts.org/

Worm Bin Care Guide

Tips to care for your indoor worm composting bin



Bedding

- Bin bedding can include paper, dead leaves, peat moss, soil, cardboard, and more. Avoid paper that has a lot of ink, such as magazines. Avoid paper that has a plastic lining, such as frozen food boxes. Use shredded paper or tear paper into 1-inch strips.
- Add new bedding as needed so that the bin stays full. Worms eat bedding and food scraps.
- Keep bedding damp but not soaking wet. Once a bin is established, most moisture comes from food scraps.
- Mix bedding and vermicompost as needed to add air and prevent clumping.



Feeding

- Freeze or chop food scraps to speed up decay.
- Bury food scraps in rotating sections of the bin. Always keep food scraps covered with bedding.
- Feed worms 1-2 times a week. 1 pound of worms can eat up to 3.5 pounds of food weekly. Don't overfeed. Excess food can make the bin too acidic.
- Provide worms with grit, such as egg shells or soil. Grit helps the worm's gizzard to break up food.

Habitat

- Store bin with lid on between 55-77° F.
- Mix in dry bedding and reduce feeding if the bin becomes too wet and water droplets form on the inside of the lid.
- Vermicompost will be ready for harvest in 2-3 months.



Don't release Red Wigglers into a garden or outdoor compost pile.

