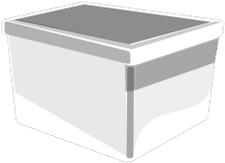


WORM BIN SETUP AND CARE

IT'S NOT COMPLICATED. IT'S NOT SMELLY. YOU CAN DO IT.

1. Find bin



- This does not need to be fancy. One box, made from either wood or plastic will be perfect. An old drawer, a plastic bin, an old bucket- they'll all work! Try tiered box systems only **after** you get the hang of vermicomposting
- **Size:** 2 sq. feet of surface area minimum. **Depth:** 8" - 16"
- **Lid:** Anything will work as long as it blocks most light and allows air in. Cardboard, burlap, newspapers, or the actual lid for the plastic container you bought
- **Air holes:** The more the merrier. Worms need oxygen. A 1/2" drill bit will do the trick. We prefer holes around the top rim of the bin, but you can put them in the lid, too

Prairie Worm Works' Keys to Success: BIN CONSTRUCTION

🐛 Airflow is everything

🐛 Shallow > Deeper

🐛 More air holes > Fewer air holes

🐛 Large surface area is best

🐛 Large air holes > Small Air Holes

🐛 Simple > Complicated

2. Fill bin



- **Prepare the bedding:** Tear a couple of newspapers into ~1" strips. When you're ready to try some different types of bedding (advanced), email us!
- **Add bedding:** Fill bottom 1/2 of bin with bedding
- **Moisten bedding** (a little water at a time): All bedding should be moist, but without puddles in bottom of bin. If you add too much water, simply add some more bedding
- **Add food waste:** Add 1/2 L of waste (see reverse) for every 1 L of Multi-Gen Worm Mix
- **Add Multi-Gen Worm Mix:** No need to add any dirt, sand, etc.
- **Add more bedding:** Add more shredded, moistened newspaper (approx. 4" layer)
- **Put your lid on!**

Prairie Worm Works' Keys to Success: FILLING THE BIN

🐛 **NO PUDDLES!** You can always

add more water tomorrow.

When wrung out, you should be

able to get a drop or two of

water from the bedding

🐛 **NO PAPER FROM A PAPER-**

SHREDDER: It's too fine and

tends to mat into layers,

making it difficult to bury food

scraps. Stick to long 1" strips

🐛 **RESIST THE URGE TO OVERFEED:** Most

worm bin problems (flies, smell)

are related to overfeeding. Worms

can last months without new food

(they rework the old vermicast)

Questions and Troubleshooting

david@prairiewormworks.ca



3. Feed bin



- Feed your bin when there is no more food in the bin: You'll begin to get a feel for this, but at first you'll be checking your bin every few days
- Feeding steps:
 1. Dig your food waste into the worm/vermicast layer by removing top bedding layer and creating a small hole.
 2. Dump your waste into the hole
 3. Cover the waste with worms/vermicast layer and top bedding layer. Failure to bury your food waste will encourage pests

Prairie Worm Works' Keys to Success: FEEDING THE BIN

Underfeeding > Overfeeding

Monitor! Monitor! Monitor!

The more you observe, the sooner you'll notice when things aren't right

Cover! Fruit flies can only lay eggs on exposed food waste

Don't add more water: The food waste you're adding will add plenty of needed moisture

Smell test: If it smells, stop feeding immediately. It's either too wet, or there is too much food waste for the worms to process. Remove food waste, add bedding, and let the bin dry out

WHAT TO FEED

YES!

Most veggies
Most fruits
Bread
Pasta
Tea bags
Coffee grounds
Cotton or wool cloth/clothing

Your worms CAN eat almost anything organic, but not everything will break down quickly

MAYBE

Eggshells- dry and grind first, as worms can't process them if they aren't ground, however they are an excellent addition in any worm bin

Citrus in moderation: worms can eat citrus, but cut back if they start living on sides of bin

NOPE!

SMALL DOSES (or not at all)*: Banana, carrot, potato peels- These are very fibrous, taking forever to break down, and worms will avoid them

NEVER: Meat*, Dairy*, Pet feces*

NEVER: Very salty foods (it dries out their skin- they need moisture in their skin to breathe), plastics, metals, and glass

* These items CAN definitely be vermi-composted but aren't recommended for beginners. Email PWW if you're interested in learning more about this list and how to compost more of these things

TIPS & ADVICE

Be wary of the web: There is A LOT of "advice" floating around the internet. Much of it pertains to outdoor worm bins in mild climates, and not to indoor vermicomposting in Canada. Email us! Resources below are PWW approved!

Overfeeding is the cardinal sin of vermicomposting: Feed smaller portions more often until you get the hang of how much your worms will eat

GREAT RESOURCES

Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appelhof (available on E-book from Regina Public Library)

<https://urbanwormcompany.com/worm-composting-blog/>

Questions and Troubleshooting

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