

Vermicompost Bin

Vermicompost

Compost is the result of the process of decomposition of organic material. It is generally used for fertilizer or soil conditioning. Worms are used. The worm castings (manure) are a vital part of the soil's nutrition.

Red Wiggler

The type of worm that is used in composting. It is smaller than the average earthworm and has a reddish color to it.

Items that can go in a vermicompost bin

Grass clippings and leaves
Newspapers
Paper towels
Fruits and vegetables
Coffee grounds and Tea bags

Items that can NOT go in a vermicompost bin

Meats
Dairy products
Food cooked with animal fats
Animal fat

Human and pet fecal matter

These items will attract vectors!

They also take a long time to decompose

Will make humans and pets sick!

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**Optional- many vermicomposting videos are available at your public library or online. Here are a couple of online clips:

- “Setting Up a Worm Composting Bin”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxhEQEA0GN8>
- “Apartment Composting 101: Vermicompost with Barb Finnin”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbjX2tt-oQw>
- “The Coolest Little Startup in America”
http://www.inc.com/magazine/20060701/coolest-startup_pagen_2.html

Build Your Own Bin

Materials Needed:

- 1 Container of .25 cubic ft. of compost material**
- 1 Container of 2 lbs. red wiggler worms (purchase online)**
- 2 Bags of shredded paper (1 gallon size)**
- 2 Bags of dried leaves or yard debris (1 gallon size)**
- 2 10 gallon storage bins (Rubbermaid or other material is fine)**
- 1 10 gallon storage bin lid**

1. Nestle two 10 gallon Rubbermaid containers (lids removed).
2. Using a Phillips head screwdriver, create 3 holes in each side of the containers and 1 hole on each end.
3. Remove the inside container.
4. Using a Phillips head screwdriver, create 12 holes in the base of the inside container.
5. Nestle the two 10 gallon Rubbermaid containers.
6. Using a Phillips head screwdriver, create 10 holes in the lid of one of the containers.
7. Wash the interior and exterior of both containers and their lids (mild dish soap and plenty of water).

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Ready to Go!

It's time for fun!

The purpose of nestling the containers is so the outside container will catch any leachate that seeps through the inside container with the holes.

1. Soak the shredded paper and leaves for at least an hour so they are moist.
2. Spread the regular compost along the bottom of the container. Make sure the compost is moist.
3. Spread the vermicompost containing the worms over the compost.
4. Spread a layer of moist leaves on top of the worms. The layer should be even.
5. Spread a layer of moist shredded paper on top of the leaves. The layer should be even.
6. Put the lid on the bin (the worms like the dark).

Worm Feeding

Feed your worms once a week. Don't put too many scraps in the bin!

If you have a lot of food left in the bin, do not feed.

Bury all of the food you put in the bin (this will help to prevent fruit flies and mold)

Keep the Vermicomost Bin Moist

When you feed your worms, spray the inside of the bin with water (use a spray bottle on the mist setting).

Be careful! Worms like a moist home but they will drown if you use too much water!