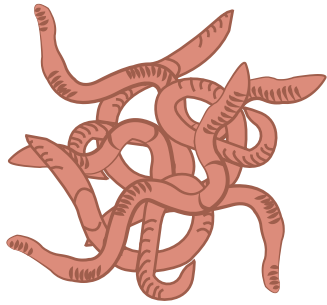


VERMICOMPOSTING: Do-It-Yourself



THE RIGHT WORMS



Don't just dig up night crawlers from your yard! **Red Wiggler** worms are voracious eaters, reproduce rapidly, and do well in captivity. Buy them at bait and tackle shops or growmagictree.com. ½ lb of worms will eat 1-2 lbs food/week.

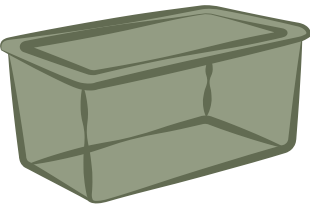
ADDING WORMS TO OUTDOOR BINS

If you're composting food scraps outdoors in a large bin, you can add 3-5 lbs of worms. In the winter, worms burrow under the ground but come up to feed, and you'll see them in spring. See "Harvesting Castings" to the right.



BUILD OR BUY AN INDOOR BIN

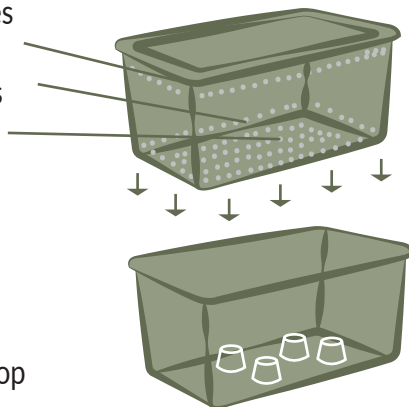
Search online for "worm bins," purchase one locally from growmagictree.com, or build one using TWO storage bins.



BIN SIZE	CAN HANDLE
4 gallon	1-2 lbs food /week
18 gallon	3-7 lbs food/week
36 gallon	8-11 lbs food/week

To the first bin, drill 1/4" holes on the top and bottom edges and all across its bottom. This will be your inside bin.

In the second bin, lay down four casters, such as the bottom half of plastic cups. Nest the first bin inside the second, so the holes on the top edge stick out.



WHAT GOES IN MY INDOOR BIN?

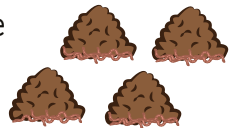
- **Bedding:** Paper towels and napkins, dryer lint, shredded cardboard and paper--coconut coir is also great!
- **Greens:** Vegetable and fruit peels, cores, rinds, scraps, spoiled vegetables and fruit, eggshells, and small amounts of coffee grounds and tea bags.
- ✗ **Do NOT compost:** Meats, fish, poultry, bones, dairy products, egg whites, egg yolks, fats, oil, grease or citrus.

USING YOUR INDOOR BIN

- Lay down bedding in the bottom of both bins.
- Don't overfeed. Be patient when starting a new bin.
- Chop up larger food scraps into smaller pieces.
- Store scraps in the freezer to prevent fruit flies.
- Thaw scraps. Place scraps in bin and cover with bedding.
- Too dry? Add water. Too wet? Add bedding.

HARVESTING CASTINGS

Tarp method: Dump it out on a tarp. Make little pyramids. Worms will move down to avoid light. Scrape the castings off top.



Get them to move: Stop feeding until they've eaten almost everything. Push the contents to one side and feed in a new spot. In a week or so they'll move. Remove castings from worm-free area.



USING CASTINGS

- **Seed germination:** 1:4 ratio of castings to soil
- **Conditioning:** 1:10 ratio of castings to soil
- **Fertilizer:** 1 Tbsp can feed an 8-10" plant for two months
- **Liquid fertilizer:** Mix 1 cup castings per 1 gallon of water

NEED MORE?

Castings are available for purchase online, or locally from growmagictree.com.