

**Wiggly
Wigglers**
ESTD. 1990

**WELCOME TO THE
WORLD OF
WIGGLY
COMPOSTING**

**A WORM-ASSISTED BOOST
TO YOUR COMPOSTING**



**TURBO CHARGER
WORM POWER
INSTRUCTIONS**

THIS WORM POWER KIT CONTAINS; THESE INSTRUCTIONS PLUS...



COMPOSTING WORMS + A BEDDING BLOCK

Our composting worms are a mixture of species (mainly reds and dendras) selected for their composting ability. Composting worms are native to the UK and in the wild can be found on the surface of the ground, generally in leaf litter. Composting worms will eat all manner of household waste from fruit and vegetable peelings, cardboard, paper, bread, pasta right through to the contents of your vacuum cleaner.

Caution: worms are living creatures and, whilst they will be perfectly comfortable in their compost bedding for a day or so after arrival, they should be transferred to the compost area as soon as possible.

2KG ANTI ACID LIME MIX

Add a handful of Lime Mix neutraliser to your wormery every couple weeks to prevent acid build up. Lime Mix also helps prevent smells, flies and white worms. Because it contains grit it also aids the worm's digestion, and its drying properties make it good for wet or under-performing kits. Good composting conditions are achieved when the contents are close to pH7.

USING TURBOCHARGER

Obviously the aim in setting up any composting area is to ensure that the worms are in the best conditions for breeding, as this will maximise the speed of treatment. The optimum conditions are:

SOIL TEMPERATURE: 18° ± 5°C (55°-75°F)
PH: 7 (NEUTRAL) TO SLIGHTLY ALKALINE

It is possible to compost in an open pile, but it is preferable to use some sort of

enclosure. This helps with both insulation and easy management worms and compost.

Adequate drainage must be provided in the base of any composter as the worms must not become waterlogged. Bare earth is fine. (Composting worms will not disappear into the ground if conditions in the waste are right as they prefer to live in rich organic matter.)

ADDING TURBOCHARGER TO YOUR COMPOST HEAP

Soak the bedding block in a half bucket of water for approx 1 hour first. The Block will absorb the water and swell up. Place the soaked block into your composter—there's no need to spread the bedding out. If you're adding worms to an existing heap make sure the heap has gone past the initial heating-up phase.

Next, make a small hollow in the bedding—somewhere near to the centre—and place your full stock of worms into the hollow.

If your composter normally has a cover, leave it off for a couple of hours. Exposing the worms to daylight will make them move into the bedding as worms instinctively burrow away from light.

The first additions of waste should be small scale, a maximum 50mm (2 inch) layer. Check that the worms have entered into the waste before adding any more.

FULLY ACTIVE

When the worms are working all over the composting area the system is classed as fully active. Waste can now be added in layers up to 150mm (6 inches) thick at a time. Always check that the worms are well distributed in the last layer before adding further waste.

Check the pH of the composter's contents regularly (the waste should always be kept moist enough to enable a successful pH reading to be taken). Waste should be neutral or just slightly alkaline. If it is outside these limits action must be taken. The most common problem is that the waste is too acidic (ie the pH reading is below 7), this can be countered by the addition of some Lime Mix or calcified seaweed.

Also check the temperature of the waste regularly. Composting worms will not lay eggs below 13 C (55°F). Further insulation may therefore be needed in certain conditions.

From now on your worms will do the work. If the compost is very smelly you will need to add a little extra Lime Mix, alternatively calcified seaweed is a good substitute.

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT WASTE

An excess of summer grass cuttings or autumn leaves can be difficult to compost on their own. Use a product such as Complete Rot for Grass to help balance the composting process.

HARVESTING YOUR COMPOST

When harvesting the compost you will need to separate the worms from the composted waste. There are two ways to achieve this. Both aim to confine the worms into one layer of the compost, so enabling the removal of the remainder. Use whichever method suits you best:

WORMS UP METHOD

The first method is to attract all the worms into the top layer of the composting volume. This is achieved by adding a layer of material that the worms find very palatable—Wiggly Wigglers Worm Treat is ideal—to add to the top of the enclosure. This will ensure that the worms come to the top from where they can be scraped off. The remaining compost can then be harvested. The removed layer of Worm Treat, worms and worm eggs can then be used as the first layer of the next composting cycle. This method is quicker but less efficient than the...

WORMS DOWN METHOD

The worms down method relies on the fact that worms are sensitive to light and will burrow into the darkness of the compost to escape it. This of course leaves a worm-free top layer which can be removed to expose another layer to the light. The process then repeats as the worms burrow again. In this way all the compost can be removed, layer by layer. Eventually you will be left with a pile of worms.

The removed compost will, however contain worm eggs. These can be removed by waiting for two weeks and repeating the layer exposure process.



ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

If there are any other queries you have about your new Urbalive Wormery or Worm Composting please don't hesitate to give our Office Wigglets a call on **01981 500391**, drop us an email to **WIGGLY@WIGGLYWIGGLERS.CO.UK**, (open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, leave us a message when closed) or send us a message on Facebook at **FACEBOOK.COM/WIGGLYWIGGLERS!**