• LIVE INSECT FEEDERS // CARE GUIDE MEALWORMS (TENEBRIO MOLITOR)



TEMPERATURE + STORAGE

Ensure the temperature inside the container is around 75 degrees to allow your mealworms to thrive and breed. To prevent overheating the container, use a ventilated cover instead of a plastic lid. When stored at room temperature, they will eat faster, which will lead to their faster transformation into beetles. If you wish to slow growth, store in the fridge. This will make mealworms become dormant, and the metamorphosis process will delay for up to two months

Note that mealworms breed faster in high-humidity conditions. You can boost humidity by placing a glass of water inside the storage container. However, make sure they can't reach the water, as this will kill them.

DIET + NUTRITION

Once you start feeding the mealworms from your colony to your pet, you can offer a commercial diet for gut-loading or a home-made variety of vegetables and fruits such as carrots, orange slices, and leafy greens to the colony to <u>gut load</u> them. This will increase the nutritional value and change fix the low Ca: high P ratio mealworms, crickets, or any other type of bug you purchase online or in-person. Be sure to remove any uneaten food before it begins to mold or rot though; this can cause your mealworms to die. Adding a raw potato cut in half will provide food and water for your mealworms.

ADDITIONAL + INFORMATION

You should cover the mealworms with a thick layer of wheat middling, or oat meal as bedding to provide bedding and a food source.

Make sure that your container will allow light to go through it (i.e. is clear or translucent), has a solid bottom to prevent the mealworms from escaping, and has holes in the lid to allow for ventilation.



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