

Questions & Answers about the Wormsrus Worm bin

Q How much will my worms eat?

A. Worms can eat over half their own body weight every day and can double their population every few months. If you start your **Wormsrus Bin** with 250 grams of compost worms they will consume up to 200 grams of food waste per day. After a few months you should have double your worm population and you can feed them more..

Q Can I feed my worms garden refuse?

A Not usually. The **Wormsrus Bin** is designed to break down soft organic waste..

Q I've had my WormsRus Bin for a month now, but the worms don't seem to be eating?

A The worms may be eating your bedding material if you have used manure or compost in addition to your **Bedding Block**.

Q Will I get too many worms ?

A No, you can never have too many worms. They will regulate their population to the confines of available space and the amount of food you give them.

Q Can I put compost worms in the garden?

A Only if you have a thick surface layer of mulch in your garden. Compost worms require moist conditions all year round because they don't tunnel deep like earth workers to find moisture.

Q Why aren't the worms moving up from the lower levels into the top working tray.

A This situation can arise in two ways. First, you may be adding new food too soon before the worms can eat the previous food. This will result in a lot of uneaten wastes being distributed throughout the system and a general reluctance by the worms to migrate upwards while they can still access material lower in the system.

Q It's raining and the worms seem to be gathering in the lid. What do I do?

A What you are noticing is the worms sensitivity to pressure changes in the weather. They will often go up into the lid even before it rains. In nature this takes them out of the soil to stop them flooding and drowning. Move the **WormsRus Bin** out of the rain.

Q Are the little white worms in my Wormsrus Bin baby earthworms?

A No, baby earthworms are not white, but clear to opaque, before developing a reddish color. The 'white worm' you are noticing is a type of worm called entrachyadids. They will not hurt compost worms, but they do indicate acidic conditions, which can be overcome by the weekly addition of a handful of lime and cardboard.

Q How do I keep ants out of my Wormrus Bin?

A Add water to raise the moisture level and add a small hand full of garden lime to where the ants are gathering.

Q Will the WormsRus Bin attract flies?

A Sometimes the very small vinegar fly (often mistaken for the fruit fly) gets in, but these do no harm. To eradicate vinegar flies, slow your rate of feeding and add lime.

Q What about holidays?

A Leaving an established **WormsRus Bin** for 3-4 weeks without constantly adding food is not a problem. Just feed the worms a good quantity of food waste mixed with dampened paper & cardboard.

APPENDIX 3 - Using Castings and Liquid Fertilizer

Top Dressing - Simply spread a layer (about 8 mm deep) of worm castings around your favorite plants. Mulch and water in.

Seed Raising Mixture - 4 parts aged compost or coir fiber to 1 part castings.

Potting Mix -3-4 parts aged compost, 1 part castings.

Native trees, fruit trees - Apply around base and water in well.

Collected **liquid fertilizer** should be diluted ; 1 part to 3 - 5 parts water and applied around and on plants.



From Little Things, Big Things Grow!

WormsRus Worm Bin



Suppliers of Compost Worms

- * **WormsRus**
- * **Bunning's Warehouse**

Worm bin contents

Base liquid collection container (black)
Instructions, nut, tap, pot
Two worm bins (green)
Lid A (no holes) vented via raised ridges under-side of lid!
Lids B (2 x larger grill holes)
Bedding block

Site

Sheltered in winter \ shade in summer
Level surface
Paving blocks to raise system for tap clearance

Getting started

Identify the black base for the liquid collection.
Fit nut and tap.
Place an up-turned pot into the base (see diagram 1).
Place lid B on black bin and place a green worm bin on top.

Add 3-4 litres of water to a 10 litre bucket.
Add the bedding block. Soak for 30 minutes.
When well soaked, place two layers of newspaper in a green bin, then add the bedding.

Add 250gms-500gms of composting worms on top of the bedding.



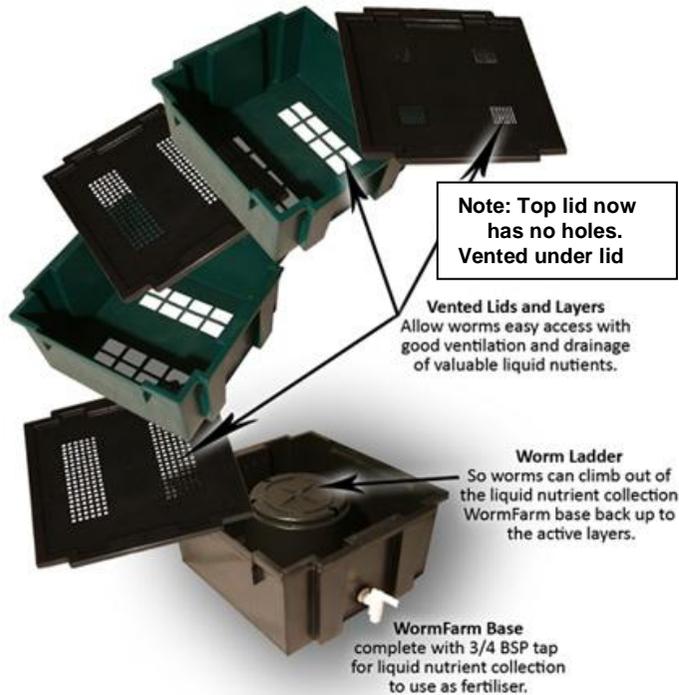
Lid A No holes



Lid B Holes



Diagram 1



Feeding

Initially feed one cup of food scraps each day (rotate each feeding site).
Add approx.: 1 part dampened paper /cardboard with 2/3 mixed food scraps.
Place on Lid A.
Once the first worm bin is full, replace Lid A with Lid B then place a second worm bin on top.
Gradually increase the volume of scraps to approx.: 0.5 - 1 litre volume per day.
This food becomes the worms bedding.

Once the second worm bin two is full add the 3rd worm bin. The feeding will now take place in level three (NOTE level three is optional)
Once the 3rd worm bin is full, check that the first worm bin is well eaten, if so, the worm castings are ready to be emptied for garden use.
The emptied bin is then placed in the top position and the process is repeated.
A week prior to emptying the worm castings any remaining worms can be baited on the surface of the castings using a piece of old pumpkin or avocado. Remove worms and food bait to the new bin.

The worm population will gradually increase then self-regulate in approx.: 12 months.
The WORMSRUS worm bin can accept on average 10+ litres volume of kitchen waste per week.

Tips

- * Worms prefer a mixed variety of organic kitchen scraps, hand towels, paper, egg trays and corrugated cardboard etc.
- * A piece of carpet cut to fit inside the bin to cover the food scraps.
- * Keep the carpet and worm food damp. Watering will be required at approx.: 1 litre per week.
- * Open the tap to drain weekly.
- * Liquid can be diluted with water approx.: 1 to 5-10 parts water.
- * The worm castings should be tilled into the soil (10 litres volume to 1-2 square metres of garden).
- * Loosen the food / bedding with a stick and add shredded corrugated cardboard if it looks saturated or has compacted.
- * For strong odours, sprinkle 1/2 cup of garden lime over food then water.
- * Adding worm tea through the worm food increases the food to break down.
- * If a weather proof cover is used, ensure ventilation.
- * Don't over feed your worm bin.
- * Avoid citrus, onions, dairy & meat.

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