

BUILDING THE BIN

Materials Needed

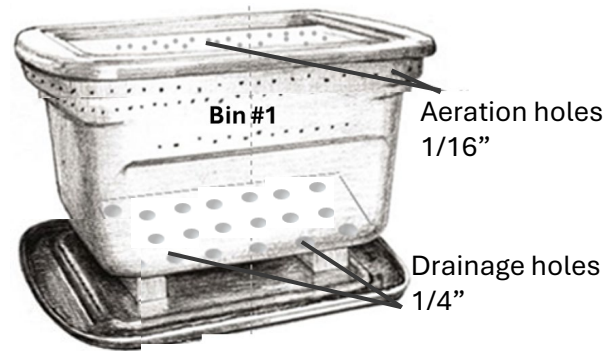
1 dark colored storage container with lid. (7 to 10-gallon)

Drill- with 1/4" and 1/16" bits.

2 bricks to set bin on drip tray.

Build Your Worm Bin:

- Use a 1/4-inch drill bit to make about 20 drainage holes in the bottom of bin (lowest point).
 - With a 1/16-inch bit, drill small aeration holes every 1–2 inches along the top edges of each bin's sides.
 - Drill additional small holes in the bin lids for airflow.
 - Find a suitable drip tray to set underneath bin.
 - Set the drip tray on the floor and place two bricks on top.
 - Position Bin #1 on the bricks to allow drainage.
- You're now ready to start vermicomposting.



Next step: See “Layering Your Bin.”

Additional bins may be added on top as needed



If ordering worms online set up the bin before you order. This gives the worms and the bin time to settle.

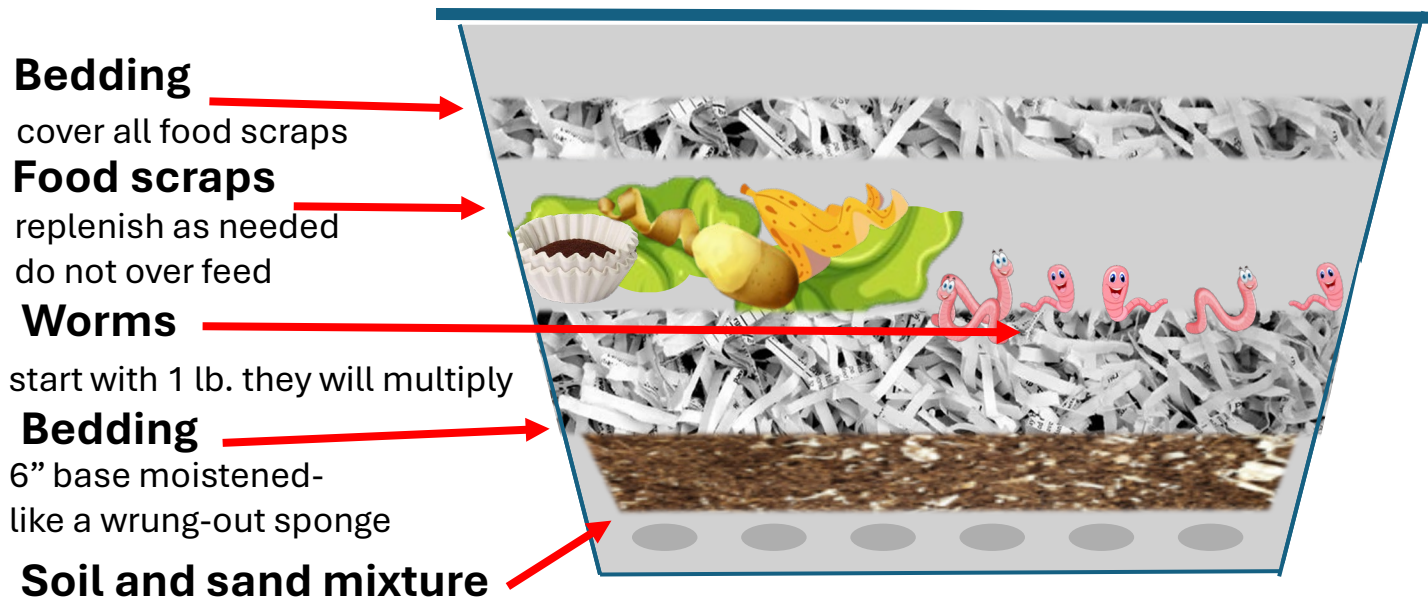
LAYERING YOUR WORM BIN

Materials needed for inside your worm bin:

Bedding- Reference: Worm Bin Bedding

Food scraps- Reference: What To Feed Your Worm Bin

Red Wiggler worms- Purchase online or find a friend who has some to share



Bedding

cover all food scraps

Food scraps

replenish as needed

do not over feed

Worms

start with 1 lb. they will multiply

Bedding

6" base moistened-

like a wrung-out sponge

Soil and sand mixture

How to layer your bin

- Bottom base layer is a mixture of sand, soil and established compost.
- add a 6" layer of moistened bedding, Only as wet as a wrung-out sponge
- add food scraps on top of bedding on one side
- add worms on top of bedding on the other side. This allows the worms to acclimate to their new home and then seek out the food.
- Top layer of bedding should cover all food scraps

Once you have completed your bin cover it and leave it alone for at least 1 week. Check to see if food scraps are being eaten. If so, add more but do not overfeed. If not, let your bin sit for a few more days.

HARVESTING/ ADDING A BIN

- Set up additional bin just like your first bin (drill holes, layer with bedding and food etc.)
 - Set new bin directly on top of old bin.
 - Only add food stock to the new bin
- Worms will migrate through the drainage holes to the new bin in search of food (this may take a few weeks)
- Once worms have transitioned, harvest vermicompost from bottom bin



Mix nutrient rich vermicompost into garden soil. Add to potting soil at a 1:4 ratio. Top dress indoor and outdoor plants. Make worm tea, dilute 10:1 then use to water planters, foliage, and gardens. All this plus the added benefit of diverting waste from landfills.

WORM BIN BEDDING

Bedding provides food and structure while allowing oxygen to penetrate the composting zones. Combine different types of bedding for the best result.

Shredded
Cardboard
(no wax coating)



Leaf Mulch
(choose leaves that
breakdown not
thick 'salt hardy'
leaves)



Newspaper
Black and white
is best (shredded
office paper works
too, avoid glossy
colored print)

Coco Coir
(made from the
husks of coconuts)



Egg cartons
(uncolored)

As you add feed stock, always cover it with a thick layer of bedding. This creates a barrier between the compost and the atmosphere which helps prevent pests and absorb excess moisture.

WHAT TO FEED YOUR WORM BIN



YES

Leafy greens 

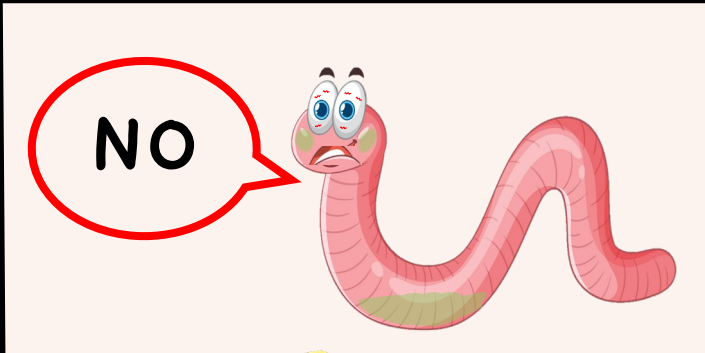
Vegetable & fruit scraps (uncooked) 

Banana peels (remove stickers) 

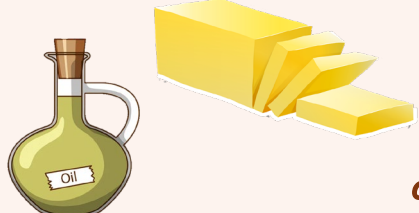
Coffee grounds 

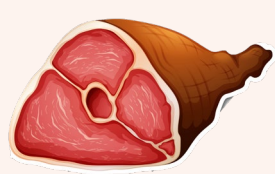
Tea bags 


Eggshells (crushed is best) 





NO

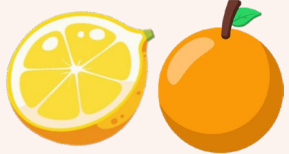
Butter Fats and Oils 

Meat or Bones 

Dairy 

Onion & Garlic 

Hot Peppers 

Citrus 

Chop up food  Don't overfeed

Include bedding material