

How to Make a Simple Home Worm Composting Bin

1. Decide what size worm bin is needed to hold your weekly plant based food scraps. One square foot of surface per pound of "garbage" generated per week is required.
2. Choose a bin that works for you. A plastic storage tote is an easy choice since there is little labor involved. A single person who eats a lot of produce might use a 13-14 gallon (56 qt.) container. Choose a size larger for a two-person family (16-18 gallon); and three sizes larger for a family of 4 (21 gallon or more).
3. Obtain the right type and amount of worms from a worm bin in one of the RE classes, a friend, or a supplier (e.g., www.wormwoman.com). Red wigglers (or *Eisenia Fetida*) are best for composting. The suggested amount of worms for every pound of garbage is 2 lbs., but a small amount will do since they reproduce rapidly.
4. Collect some non-glossy newspaper and shred it as thinly as possible into a bowl. Add a little water to dampen. This will be the bedding for the worms.
5. Carefully cut about 6 silver dollar sized holes in the lid of the bin.
6. Cut some mesh produce bags into patches large enough to cover the holes, and double it to make a screen.
7. Carefully use a hot glue gun to apply glue around the holes on the outside of the lid. Use something that won't melt—like a ceramic plate—to press the patches into place. Or, use duct tape to hold the patches in place, being careful not to cover the holes with tape.
8. Add the bedding and worms to the bin.
9. Bury the food under the bedding.
10. Check for moisture. Add water if the bedding is dry. If water pools at the bottom of the bin, add more dry shredded newspaper and hold off on feeding the worms scraps for a while. Keep the bin in a place away from radiators and heaters, and keep it out of the sun. Outside, the worms will not survive because it is too cold.
11. Harvest the worms for fishing! Use the compost for your houseplants or outdoor garden! Use the worms for your outdoor compost!!
12. Please see Anne Marie Haber or Jessica Rae if you have additional questions about composting. Thanks!