

How to Make a Worm Bin

Materials Needed

- Two 10-14 gallon dark plastic storage bins (like Rubbermaid bins)
- Weed cloth material
- Gorilla tape
- Drill
- 7/32 drill bit (or similar)

Step 1: Prepare the bottom bin

- Choose one bin to be the bottom and drill two parallel rows of holes. Measure 2-3" from the bottom of the bin to drill the first set of holes. Drill a hole about every 1.5-2". You want to end up with about 25 holes on each side.
- Drill the next row about ½-1" above the first set of holes.
- Repeat on the other side and your bottom bin is complete.



Step 2: Ready the top bin

- Drill two rows of parallel holes on the top of the second bin. Measure about 2-3" down from the top of the bin to drill your first set.
- Measure about 1" below the first row and drill the second set of holes. Repeat on the other side. Again drill your holes in a row about 1.5-2" apart.
- On the base, drill holes at the deepest part of your bin for the best drainage. Space holes about 2" apart.
- Take one of the lids and drill two sets of holes, evenly spaced about ½" apart.



Step 3: Weed cloth on inside

- Measure and cut weed cloth to cover the holes on the inside side and top of your top bin. This will keep your worms in and fruit flies out.
- Secure the barrier with Gorilla tape.
- Repeat this process for the lid.



Step 4: Stack your bins

- Take your bottom bin and place two blocks of wood, soup cans or anything else that is level and about 5" tall, at the bottom of your bin.
- Take your top bin that has the filter barrier placed over the holes and set it inside of your bottom bin. It should sit right on top of your wood, cans, or other level objects.
- You are now ready to change your worm bin into a worm home!



Time to prepare the bedding for your worms!

Step 1: Worm bedding

- Make alternating layers of 1-2" moistened bedding from the "browns" list (cut-up cardboard, strips of newspaper, shredded bills, ripped up toilet paper rolls, etc.) followed by a thin layer of your "greens" (fruit and veggie scraps) .
- Make about three alternating layers of bedding and food scraps so you have about 6-8" of material in the bottom of your bin.
- Cover the top layer of kitchen scraps with about 4" of shredded, moistened newspaper (should be about as wet as a damp sponge).

Step 2: Introduce your WORMS!

- You're ready to get worms! You can order 1 pound of worms (Red Wigglers are most efficient) from a worm provider near you. Here are some local worm suppliers:
 - Big Red Worm Co. 1240 Q St. Rio Linda, CA 95673. (916) 991-6564
 - Sierra Worm Compost. Georgetown, CA. 1-888-WormCompost
 - Worm Fancy. P.O Box 7414 Citrus Heights, CA 95621. (916) 560-8023
- You will place the worms deep within the mixed up layers. You may have to gently separate the worms into smaller clumps and spread them evenly in your bin.

Step 3: Take Care

- Return moistened, shredded paper to the top of the layers.
- Remember, you just provided the worms with lots of tasty food so you shouldn't add any more for about 3 days. After that, you can feed your worms about every other day or so.
- Be careful about the amount of food that goes into your worm bin, it is much easier to overfeed than underfeed. If what you have added previously has not been mostly eaten, wait another day or so to add more.
- You also need to monitor the moisture when you add food. If the contents seem a little dry give them a few blasts of water from a spray bottle. You want it to feel like a damp sponge always.

Need Help. . .

Call the Placer County Master Composter ROTLINE at (530) 889-7399

E-mail University of California Cooperative Extension ceplacer@ucdavis.edu

Google “Vermicomposting” for tips from the web