



Worm Farm Information

Research has found that up to 40% of waste in an average household rubbish bin consists of food. You can reduce this food waste by planning your meals, shopping efficiently and by using a worm farm. This can help save you money and divert food waste from landfill.

Worm farms produce a nutrient-rich organic fertiliser for your garden that helps produce healthy plants, fruit and vegetables. Worm farms take up little space so they are ideal for homes with small gardens and can even be kept indoors.

Set up your kitchen:

- Place your fruit and vegetable scraps in your kitchen caddy.
- On a weekly basis empty the food waste into the worm farm – spreading it thinly across the surface.
- Remember to clean out the caddy regularly (it can be placed in the dishwasher).

Set up your garden:

- Place your worm farm in a shaded and protected place away from direct rain and sunlight. Choose a place with easy access from your kitchen.
- Start by soaking the bedding block in water, then spread the moistened fibre across the base tray.
- Add the starter kit of 1000 worms, lie a moist hessian cover over them and place a lid on top of the worm farm. Let the worms settle in for one week (do not feed them during this time).
- On a weekly basis empty the food waste into the worm farm – spreading it thinly across the surface.
- In four to eight weeks you'll have worm castings and liquid to use on your garden. Wear gloves when handling or spreading the castings and liquid.

Troubleshooting

WORMS ARE TOO SLOW/NOT EATING THEIR FOOD:

- Worms have very small mouths so try chopping the scraps into smaller pieces.
- Only add more scraps when the worms have nearly finished the existing food.

WORM FARM IS SMELLY:

- Worm farms can start to smell if the worms are being fed more than they can eat or if the farm is too wet.
- Only add more scraps when the worms have nearly finished the existing food. Add a small amount of shredded newspaper or egg carton to absorb the excess moisture.
- Do not add onion, citrus or chillies.

ANTS IN THE WORM FARM:

- Ants, slaters and cockroaches can be a nuisance but they won't harm the worms. Reduce the number of insects by keeping a lid over the worm farm.
- If the worm farm has legs, place each one in a bowl of water to prevent crawling insects from climbing up and in.
- Do not add meat, dairy products, cooked or processed food such as bread, cake and pasta.

ADD:

- ✓ fruit and veggie scraps
- ✓ coffee grounds
- ✓ tea bags
- ✓ crushed egg shells
- ✓ small amount of pizza box and egg carton (moistened)
- ✓ some fallen leaves.

AVOID:

- X meat
- X dairy products
- X grease and fat
- X bread and cake
- X bones
- X vacuum cleaner dust
- X dog or cat droppings
- X garden prunings and grass clippings
- X magazines
- X bleached or glossy office paper

MORE INFORMATION Visit the FAQ section at <http://whitehorsehomecompostingtrial.com.au>