

How to use your worm farm

Worm farms are a great alternative to composting for people with smaller gardens. Worm farms can be kept inside, outside, on the balcony or in the shed.

Worm farming is a fun way to turn your food scraps into a rich, soil like substance called 'worm castings'. Worm castings are great for pot plants, growing seedlings, and for potting soils. The liquid produced by worm farms is full of nutrients and can be watered down and added to pot plants.

Materials that can go into your worm farm:

- Paper, soaked and ripped cardboard such as pizza boxes
- Most fruit and vegetables (except onions, garlic, tomatoes and citrus)
- Leaves
- Hair and lint
- Egg shells

Materials that can't go into your worm farm:

- Meat, dairy or fatty foods
- Plants from the onion family including garlic and shallots
- Citrus fruits and acidic foods such as tomatoes and pineapple
- Items that are not suitable for worm farms can be placed into your green organics bin.



Handy hints:

- Keep your worm farm in a well shaded area out of direct sunlight.
- Worms need moisture as they breathe through their skins. Keep your worm farm moist like a sponge but not wet otherwise your worms can drown.
- Ensure that your worm farm has good drainage. Make sure that the worm farm is covered so that it doesn't get too wet in the rain and ensure that drain-holes are open at the bottom.
- Chop food scraps into smaller pieces as this will make it easier for your worms to digest them. Make sure that you do not over-feed your worms. Only give them food once they have eaten most of the previous meal.
- Add a sprinkle of wood ash, dolomite or lime every few weeks to prevent the worm farm from becoming too acidic.
- To prevent pest getting into your worm farm, keep the worm bed covered with a hessian sack or piece old carpet. If your worm farm sits on legs, place each leg in a bowl of water. This will prevent unwanted creatures from climbing in.