



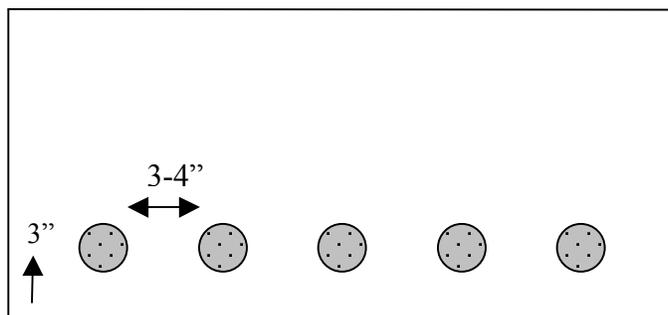
Building a Vermicomposting Bin (Simple but Effective)

1. Purchase a plastic storage box.

- Size: The smallest size for an effective bin is approximately 20 inches long, 16 inches wide and a height of 10 inches. These dimensions are estimates, find a bin that is generally this size... or go bigger. (Hint: you will be digging around in the bin, so do not buy a bin that is taller than your arm is long, you need to be able to reach the bottom) Rule of Thumb: 1ft² of surface for each pound of garbage/week
- Must be opaque, worms do not like light so the bin must be a dark color so light can't enter
- Lid is option. The lid is only needed if transporting the bin. However on a daily basis the bin stays open to the air.

2. Make air holes

- Use a ¼ inch bit to drill holes approximately 3 in. from the bottom.
- It is only necessary to drill holes on the 2 longer sides of the bin
- Hole pattern: Drill holes within a circular pattern about the size of a quarter, leaving spaces between the circles



3. Bedding

- 4 in. high, and cover the entire bottom of the bin
- Use a paper shredder to cut up newspaper into strips... the bedding of your worm bin
- Newspaper needs to be moist as worms breathe through their skin- Bedding should feel like a wet sponge, when you squeeze a handful of bedding a few drops of water should drip from hand
 - Method 1: Add newspaper to bin, then pour/spray water over top and stir, be careful not to over-water as there is no drainage (if too wet- just add more bedding)
 - Method 2: Place newspaper in a bucket of water, ring out, then place in bottom of worm bin

4. Add the worms- red worms work well

- After adding worms, add another inch of bedding, to bring total bedding to 5 in. high.

5. Keep the bedding moist and dark by laying sheets of newspaper over the top of the bedding

6. Harvesting the compost: after most of the newspaper is gone (approximately 3-4 months)

- Method 1: Place worm bin contents on a plastic sheet. A bright light placed overhead will cause the worms to crawl to the bottom of the pile. You can scoop off the compost from the top of the pile while the worms hide from the light.
- Method 2: Move the contents of bin to one side and add fresh bedding and food to the other side. When the worms move into the new bedding, you can remove the finished compost (this will take a few days to weeks)