

Useful Vermicomposting Tips

- Ensure that there is ALWAYS at least 15 cms of moist, shredded newspaper forming a layer between the lid and the layer of foodwaste.
- Do NOT use any other type of worm other than Red Wigglers. Other species cannot thrive in a confined space.
- Do NOT overload your vermibin with organics. Feed your pets no more than two handfuls of waste per week.
- ALL vermibins generate fruit flies occasionally. They are harmless and last a month at the most.
- Ensure that your vermibin bedding is ALWAYS as damp as a well wrung out sponge.
- Make sure everything going into your bin is "worm size" or well chopped up.
- Make sure that you check the bottom bin for excess liquid. Dilute this "compost tea" and use it to fertilize your plants.



- In 8-12 months you will need to harvest the super soil from the bin. This can be achieved by ceasing to feed one half of your vermibin for a month. The worms will gradually move to the food source side of the tote and you can then remove the black soil from the other side.

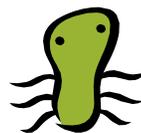
- Locate your bin in an area that never experiences temperatures lower than 10 degrees celsius.

For More Information on Composting Contact:

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Box 219, Pemberton, B. C.
VON 2L0
1-800-298-7753
(604) 894-6371 ext. 236
www.slrd.bc.ca
zerowaste@slrd.bc.ca

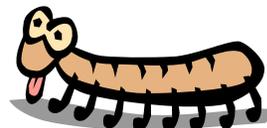


The Composting Council of Canada
16 Northumberland St., Toronto, Ont.
M6H 1P7
(416) 535-0240
www.compost.org



The Greater Vancouver Regional District
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B. C.
V5H 4G8
(604) 436-6800
www.gvrd.bc.ca

The City of Toronto website
www.city.toronto.on.ca



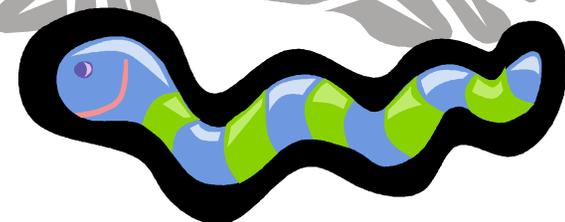
City Farmer's website
www.cityfarmer.org

Whistler residents are reminded that it is illegal to store waste outdoors. Do not place your vermibin in a location that is accessible to wildlife. Keep it inside an enclosed garage, in your mudroom, kitchen, or basement.



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The Dirt on Indoor Composting



A Complete Guide to Starting and Maintaining Your Own Vermicomposter

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

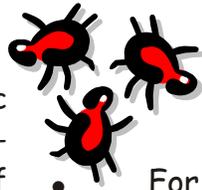
What is Indoor Composting?

Composting is the practice of turning organic materials (e.g. kitchen scraps) into nutrient-rich soil. Indoor composting or the practice of composting using Red Wiggler worms is also known as Vermicomposting. Red Wiggler worms can consume their body weight in scraps every day. This makes them highly efficient at reducing your overall garbage output. Naturally occurring micro-organisms and other micro-creatures live comfortably inside a rubbermade tote that can be located anywhere in a household. Vermicomposting is clean, odourless, and convenient. It is ideal for apartment dwellers, people who have no yard, or for people who cannot compost outdoors due to local bear populations.



Why Vermicompost?

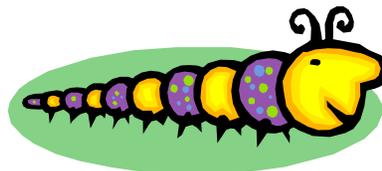
Landfill space is finite. It eventually gets used up. Locating new landfill space is extremely difficult as well as costly. Most household waste is 1/3 organic and will only breakdown under the right circumstances; for example, in a composter. Composting generates a useful soil amendment, a rare commodity in our rocky corridor. When kitchen scraps end up in a landfill they not only take up valuable space by not degrading properly, they also represent a wasted resource.



Getting Started

You Will Need

- For a house of 4 you will need two 100 L rubbermade totes commonly available at your local hardware store. For each additional person allow an increase in bin size by approximately 25 L.
- Drill 10 holes in the bottom of a tote and place this one INSIDE the other tote. You can use a screwdriver or some other pointy instrument. This allows aeration. The worms must be able to breathe.
- Drill 10 holes in one lid. This lid goes on top of the stacked totes.
- Place the unused lid underneath the totes for neatness.
- Inside the vermibin lay flat 3 cm of dampened, unshredded newspaper.
- Fill half of the bin with dampened, shredded newspaper.
- Add 1 kg of Red Wiggler worms to the bin. These are available through the SLRD or through local worm suppliers.
- Add 1kg of kitchen scraps every week or whatever your worms can handle. You'll soon be able to figure this out.



Troubleshooting

The Vermibin is Stinky. The bin is too wet or is being overloaded. Don't feed the bin for at least two weeks. Add enough damp, shredded newspaper to fill the bin to the top.

There Are a Lot of Fruit Flies. The bin is too wet or is being overloaded with food. Don't feed the bin for a month and add enough damp, shredded newspaper to fill it. Take the entire vermibin outside and remove the lid for a couple of hours during the day.

The Worms are Trying to Get Out. The bin is too hot. Relocate the bin to a cooler place. Or, the bin is too wet. Add enough damp, shredded newspaper to fill the bin to the lid.



There is a Lot of Liquid Collecting in the Bottom Tote. This is a natural feature of vermibins. Empty the liquid into a watering container, dilute with water, and sprinkle onto indoor or outdoor plants.

The Bin is Full. If the bin is full of blackish soil, it is time to harvest it. If the bin is full of uncomposted materials, stop feeding the bin until the amount goes down. Remember to continually add shredded newspaper each time you feed the bin.