



# IBC WORMFARM WORKSHOP

# GOOD FOR THE EARTH AND GOOD FOR YOU



Composts and worm farms are a great way to reduce landfill, recycle kitchen and garden waste, and to improve your garden soil. This handbook will help you to integrate all the skills learnt today into your own backyard

A large blue IBC tote (Intermediate Bulk Container) with a metal cage, sitting on grass. The tote has a spigot at the bottom with a red cap. The background shows trees and a blue sky. A central text box contains the title 'WORM FARMING'.

# WORM FARMING

---

## WHAT?

---

Worm farms use worms and microbes to break down organic matter. This process is a lot faster than composting, especially if you have a lot of worms. Worms will break down 3-4 kg of your kitchen waste per week and then leave behind worm castings and worm tea (liquid fertiliser) that can be used to improve the health of your soil.

---

## WHY?

---

Approximately 45% of household waste and 30% of all waste we throw away is compostable. Like composting, worm farms are great for reducing food waste, landfill, greenhouse gases and water pollution. They can also be a fun hobby and a low-maintenance pet.

---

## HOW?

---

A worm farm can be set up in just about any kind of container: old bathtubs, polystyrene or plastic boxes or an IBC tank (Intermediate Bulk Container). With any of these containers, you will need bedding material which is any carbon material such as mulch, cardboard, wet newspaper, straw, hay, dried leaves etc. Plus worms and some compost to get you started.



---

# IBC.....HOW?

---

You will need:

- An IBC tank (food grade) check fb market place or <https://scrapltd.com.au/>
- An angle grinder
- A drill with a 2-3 mm bit
- Black or dark paint
- Red wriggler worms (1000) You can buy them from <https://scrapltd.com.au/> or "borrow" them from an existing worm farm
- Bedding (newspaper, cardboard, mulch etc.)
- Shade cloth
- Hessian or Geo textile fabric
- Cable ties
- A little bit of compost
- Bricks, sleepers or a wooden pallet to prop the farm up

Firstly, set up the base with bricks, sleepers or a wooden pallet which will prop the farm up.

Then cut the top off the IBC tank with the angle grinder, the metal part will be the lid for the farm. Cut off the bars that will be in the way. Then drill holes into the plastic bit you cut off, this will create a reservoir down the bottom of the tank so the worm juice can drain into it.

Now pull the tank up outside the bars and paint the outside of the tank a dark colour, since worms like the dark.

Make sure to cut a chunk out of the plastic lid with the angle grinder so it fits over the tap inside. Place inside and push to the bottom of the tank. Once paint is dry move the farm to it's stand.

Put the hessian or geo textile fabric on top of the holes. Now place the bedding into the tank, then any compost you might have and then the worms. Place more bedding on top and then wet newspaper or cardboard to make it dark. Now make the lid by attaching the shade cloth to the metal frame. Place on top of the farm. Voilà!

# TIPS

---

- Don't use chlorinated water when setting up bedding or when adding water
- (Save rainwater or leave bucket of chlorinated water in the open for a few days to allow chemicals to evaporate).
- NEVER EVER allow bedding to dry out. (check every 2-3 days when feeding)

## FEEDING:

- FEED in a specific area of the worm farm not spread all over the top, (ph of soil can become too acidic)
- Foods they love:  
All kitchen scraps particularly:
- Pumpkin, bananas, mangoes and avocados
- A pulp from smoothies, coffee grounds, teabags, crushed eggshells and pollard
- NO citrus, onions, garlic or meat.

Worms feed off the bacteria of rotting food, anything old and squishy they will love. Add carbon rich material too, such as dried leaves or aged wood chips.

## LIVING CONDITIONS

Worms like to be kept dark and damp. In Winter, they like to be warm - locate in area where they get some warm winter sun. Cover with piece of carpet particularly at night, keep in shed or under cover. On a very hot day in Summer, they prefer a shady spot, they like to be kept cool. Place a small block of ice on top of farm to allow cold water to drip into farm or place ice cubes directly into farm when extreme heat is expected

-from Michael in Mt Vic

# FACTS

---

First up, worms don't actually wee, so we recommend mentally crossing out the words 'worm wee' for all future use. If you're curious, worms release their water waste through pores on their body, (the way we sweat) but it's not the same as urine. The product often referred to as 'worm wee' or 'worm juice' is simply the excess liquid drained through a worm farm environment from inputs and watering. It is more accurately known as leachate. If you're a worm farm user, you'll be familiar with leachate; it's the liquid that passes through your worm farm and pools at the bottom to be drained.

- [wormsdownunder.com.au](http://wormsdownunder.com.au)



# APPLICATION

---

How do I apply my worm juice?

Worm Solutions Premium Worm Juice application rates:

**Home Garden Use:**

50/50 dilution for trees, flowers and plants including fruit and vegetables.

30/70 (30% Juice) on delicate plants & bonsais.

**Lawn:**

Use a 3 litre hose spray pack filled with undiluted worm juice and attach hose water to dilute juice and spray onto lawn. This will cover approx 1 litre per 15-20m<sup>2</sup>.

**Broadacre Use:**

Application rate: 5-15 litres per hectare

80/20 (80% water) 20% Worm Juice. 4 to 1.

- [wormsolutions.com.au](http://wormsolutions.com.au)





# SOURCES

---

Making a Worm Farm From a 1000lt IBC - Re-Gen Farming

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJUQZ16xWuo>

<https://scrapltd.com.au/>

<https://wormsdownunder.com.au/>

<https://wormsolutions.com.au/>

Michael from Mt Victoria - WORM BIBLE

