



First of all **thank-you** for purchasing an Easy - Worm Farm.

When your order was placed, the recycled plastics bins, comprising the worm farm, were dispatched from Auckland and the worms were dispatched from another source. They will arrive within 3 days of each other. If you have any questions or want advice I am always available on info@easy-veg.co.nz

#Important Note: It is best to start collecting your kitchen scraps now so that when the worms arrive they have some food already partly broken down. It is normal for some worms to either end up in the bottom container or try and get out. Adding tissue paper or torn up news paper on top of the coconut fibre helps them settle in. Also if you are going away for an extended time, add layers of shredded newspaper to the top of the food.

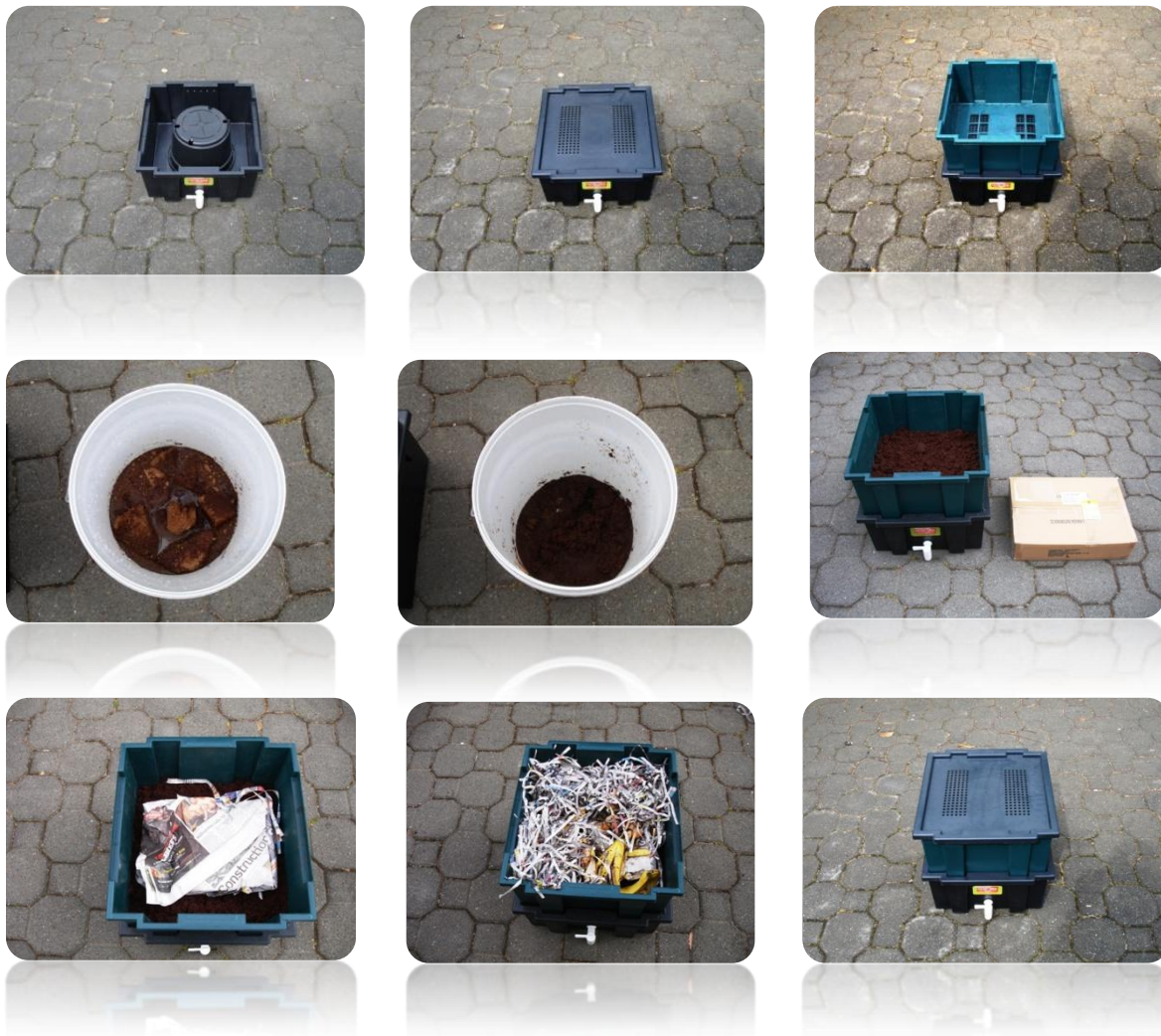
Instructions

Location The Easy-Veg worm Farm can be located in your garage, or anywhere on your section or deck. Be aware that pets will be curious and could knock it over. The farm is best suited to a warm shaded area. Worms cannot tolerate **very** hot or cold conditions, but have been known to survive the extremes of climate that NZ has. I have kept mine in the garage all year, no smell, no escapes and easy. In areas that have freezing winters it is easy to bring your worm farm into your garage. There will be no smell. See below.

Assemble and getting going.

- Place the bin with the tap in it on the ground or a stand in the location as per above. This lower bin does not have worms but is there to collect the juice and contains the plastic up turned pot for the worms to use as a ladder. Place lid with the larger holes on this
- Now place another bin on top of this. Cut some of the cardboard box the bins came in (i and place this at the bottom of the second bin. One layer is fine.
- When the worms arrive, soak the coconut block in 2l of warm water for 30 mins or until there is no dry coconut fibre. Squeeze out any excess water. Fibre should be moist. Place fibre in second bin. Coconut fibre block is only supplied if the worms are packed without Vermicasts.
- Feed the worms with 100 to 200mm of appropriate food
- Place a piece of neatly cut carpet on top of this. Any material will do that keeps light out and lets the gas the worms produce escape. Not essential as we have had this worm farm going for over 12mths without problems.
- Place lid with small holes on top
- Place another piece of carpet on top of the top lid so as to act as a temperature mediator and buffer for rain. Contact your local carpet store as they always have carpet off cuts.
- Keep adding food as required. It is good practice to alternate food from one side to the other.
- Once this bin is full then you need to add the other bin. First replace the lid in use, small holes, with the larger holed one.

- Place the top bin onto the lower two.
- Place food scraps (100mm) in it. **The second bin must make contact with the material in the first bin so the worms can successfully move to the second bin.** The worms will move from the lower bin to the second bin after all the food has been used up. Check to make sure that the scraps in the second green bin are making contact with the lower bin scraps so that the worms can move between the two. If the scraps have reduced in height in the first bin you will need to top the first bin up again. At this point you can remove the castings for use.



What to feed them

Worms need a moist environment. Check that their surroundings are damp, add water if needed. Add dry leaves or torn up paper products if it is too wet – the working area should be as damp as a wrung out sponge.

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Add food scraps regularly, smaller pieces (no larger than 2cm) will be eaten more quickly and prevent odors.

Worms don't have teeth, so they like their food scraps small: But they are insatiable eaters!

Worms like a diet of fruit and vegetables with 30% of their diet being carbon. (Carbon material can be provided in the form of scrunched up envelopes, handee towels, tissues, shredded paper; any paper that's **not** shiny and coloured or has a plastic film coating is ok). Around 4,000 worms can eat 250ms of organic material in 24 hours! Watch out!!

You can feed your worms:

- Vegetable peels and fruit peels (except acidic fruits)
- Waste from vegetable juicers
- Tissues, paper and soaked and ripped cardboard
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Dirt and leaves
- Hair
- Egg shells
- Wood ash

Worms don't like:

- Citrus or acidic fruit - lemons, oranges and kiwifruit (these are OK in small quantities)
- Onion and garlic
- Spicy foods
- Meat and dairy products
- Green grass clippings- they should be added sparingly as large amounts generate excess heat and produce ammonia which will kill the worms
- Pineapple - contains an enzyme that will dissolve the worms

Worm Castings, Leachate

1. **Castings (Vermicasts)** - are one of the best and safest fertilizers around. It's also ph neutral meaning that it's halfway between acidic and alkaline. Castings feel and smell like good soil because effectively that's all they are; in fact, it's said that worm castings are 5 times richer in nutrients than good topsoil.

Use- Worms casts can be mixed with potting mix, seed raising mix and compost (about 20% casts to 80% mix), and is the perfect medium into which to plant seedlings, plants and trees. Casts do not have to be diluted for use in the garden, but make sure they are tilled into the soil. For best results, add compost and mulch as soil cover.



2. **Leachate**- a fluid called leachate seeps through the material the worms digest. Worm leachate is collected from the tap on the bottom container. This can be collected whenever you want to use it as an organic fertilizer, or when it is full.

Use- The juice is very high in nitrogen and needs to be watered down to about 1:10, or so it's the colour of weak tea. The liquid is so rich that it can be harmful if not diluted.

Problem Solver

- **Rotting food**- Too much food for population, feed less, food pieces too big,
- **Fruit flies or small white bugs and worms around farm**- Too acidic cover food with damp paper, add lime to increase pH
- **Worms climbing up sides, worms fat and pale**- Too wet, add paper products and dry leaves, gently fork holes in the working layer
- **Ants**- Too dry or acidic Add water/lime, if worm farm is on legs, place each leg in a container of water
- **No worm Juice**- Not enough water Add water

Question and answers

How many worms do you need to start a worm bin?

1,000 is ok, but bin takes some time to get going; 2,000 worms (500g) will get a worm bin working much more quickly and efficiently.

Do I need to lime my worm bin?

A small handful of lime or gypsum once a month helps to keep the food sweet.

What do I do if I go on holiday?

Add to the bin as follows.

- 1 – 2 weeks, empty out your fridge of any fruit and vegetables
- 2 – 3 weeks, dried grass or coconut fibre from garden centre or worm grower
- 4+ weeks, coconut fibre block from garden centre or worm grower

Thanks again for purchasing an Easy-Veg product that will benefit your health, your pocket and you planet!

Mick Palmer