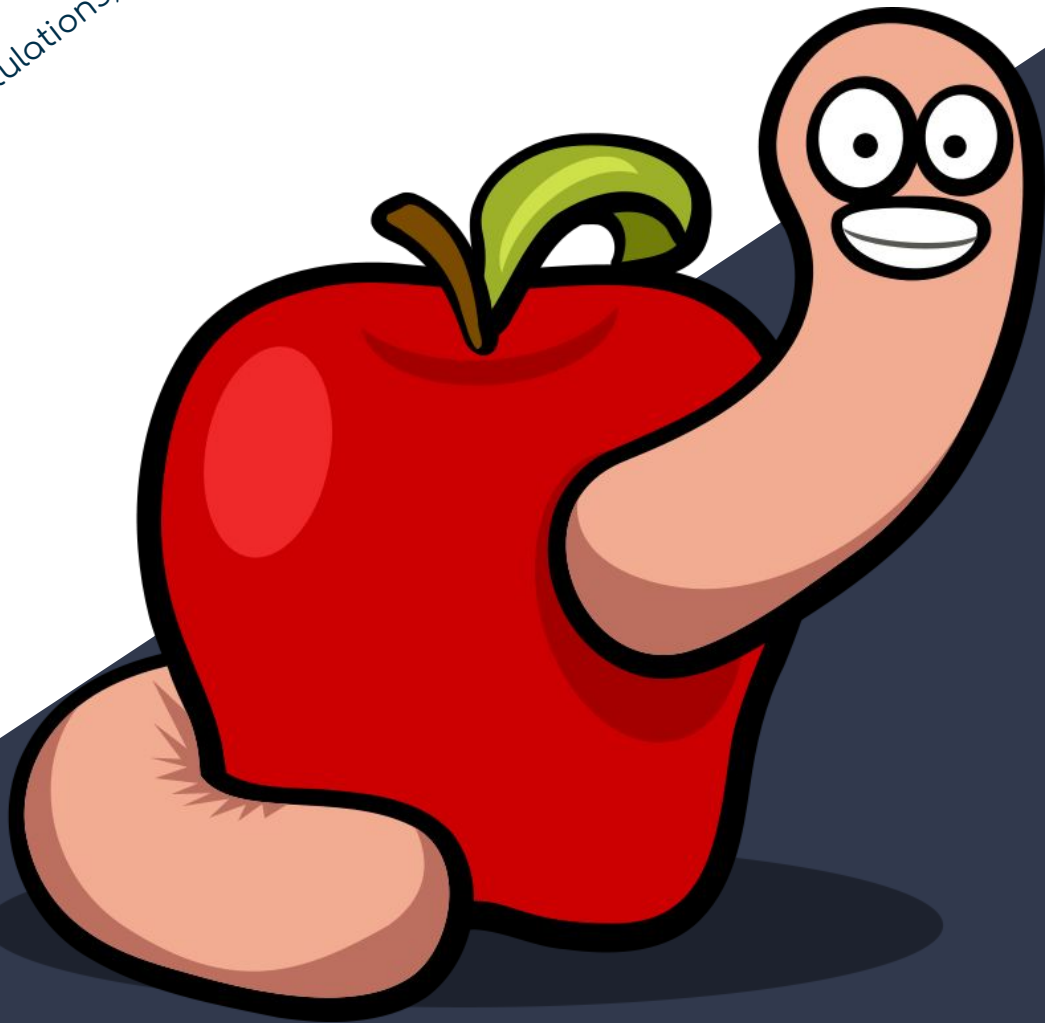
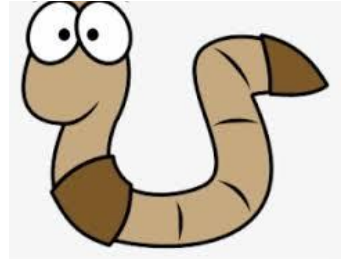


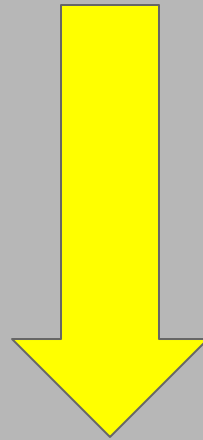
# How to: Vermicomposting!

Congratulations, Mr. Mar, on your new worm bin!



# How it works:

You use Red Wiggler worms and build a wonderful habitat for them to stay in with moist bedding and food. Giving these little worms organic food allows them to eat and create a nutrient-filled compost with their poop, becoming a great tool for fertilizing your plants! This helps prevent so much of this food from being wasted and ending up in landfills and gives these nutrients back to the environment.



# What You Can Vs. What you can't

## Put in the bin

- Cardboard
- bedding.
- Most fruits and veggies
- cork
- Egg shells
- Anything natural and non-processed
- Coffee Grounds
- Leaves
- shredded paper
- Add brown materials (With a lot of carbon) such as dry leaves, straw, etc.
- Add green materials (With lots of nitrogen) such as grass clippings and food waste.
- Newspaper
- Banana Peels
- Grains
- Sawdust



wikiHow to Add Compost to Plants

- Meat: Won't be eaten and will rot.
- Bones: Worms won't eat.
- Citrus: Acidic foods are bad for them. Hurts stomachs.
- Processed foods: They won't eat natural food.
- Dairy: Will rot and stink up
- Spicy food: Hurts stomachs
- Animal waste: Makes bin stink and spreads disease.



# How long?

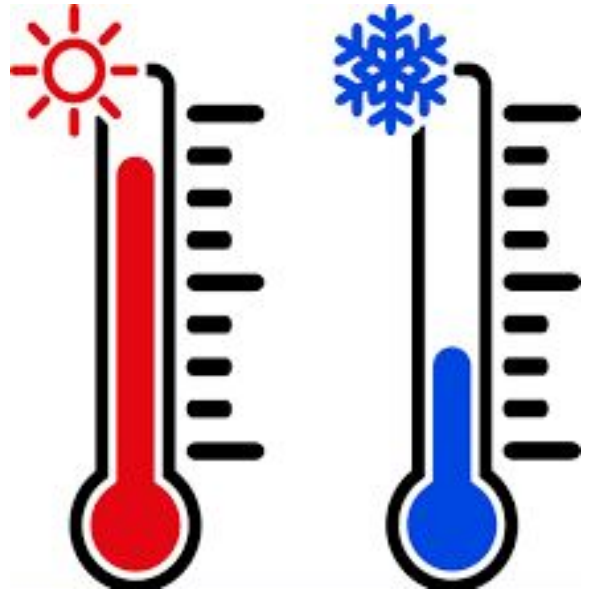
The entire Vermicomposting process takes three to six months, so the entire procedure will be done two-four times a year. This may increase/decrease depending on your amount of worms and how much you feed them.





# Maintenance

To have a good maintenance you have to have a moist bedding, like pre-soaked newspaper shreds which will keep them happy, organic food scraps, and the right temperature which is 59-77 fahrenheit. Also, make sure you clean your bin, because the worms will be making fertilizer so if you clean it, it will avoid an odor smell. Another thing, is to drain out any excess moisture, because it will avoid your compost from spoiling. Lastly, keep your compost covered to avoid any unwanted pests/pets.



# FAQ

1. Why does my compost bin smell bad?

Answer: Did you put in any dairy or meat? This will often rot in the bin and the worms won't touch it. Another reason is that the bin might be too wet.

2. How do I make the smell go away?

Answer: You have to stir it to mix the soil so it can get some oxygen mixed in with it. This'll help rid the soil of as much bacteria. Also, try to add less water.

3. Will wetting the bin too much cause a problem in the process?

Answer: This could possibly drown the worms. Make sure that the bedding has no puddles of water and matches the moistness of a wrung-out sponge.

4. Why do I have fruit flies/flyes in general?

Answer: Too much food was most likely exposed. Try to bury food a little farther down to avoid as much attraction to your bin.

6: Why are ants in the bin? How do I stop them?

Answer: The soil might be too dry. If you put the food lower down in the soil, the ants won't go deeper. You can stop them by putting some powdered cinnamon and turmeric around the bin if they won't go away.

7. Why aren't the worms eating items like chips and oranges?

Answer: Worms only eat organic matter and do not like processed foods. Along with this, they also do not like acidic foods and will avoid eating them. This would include grapefruit, oranges, lemons, etc. These things are not good for their stomachs.

8. Where is a good place to put my composting bin?

Answer : It may be best to keep it inside, as you'll have easier access to the worms and will be able to regulate their temperatures easier. Vermicomposting bins are less likely to stink so you can pretty much put them anywhere inside of your house that animals cannot get to.

9. Why is it taking so long to turn into compost?

Answer : For vermicomposting, the worms only really eat a little every day or every other day. It may take a little longer for that to end up as compost. Make sure you're only putting natural, non-citrus waste in there or else the worms won't eat it. If this is within one of the first weeks you are doing this, the worms may need some adjustment time and may not eat all that much at first.

10. Why do I have mite infestation?

Answer : Mites are often drawn to the food in the bin. If there's a large amount of them congregating, avoid adding foods with high moisture content such as fruits and vegetables.

11: Why are a lot of my worms dying?

If it is too hot in the place they are (anywhere around 84 degrees) this is dangerous to them. Too much salt and acidic foods can also be the cause. Overall, if you need to, changing a bit of the bedding could help as well.

12: There's mold growing in my bin. Is this a problem? What should I do about it?

It's nothing to worry about. It's a natural part of the process and will be eaten at some point by the worms. If you don't like the look of it, just cover it in bedding.



# What to do with Compost?

You can use the compost on indoor or outdoor plants, but mix 1:4 vermicomposting to potting soil. You can also, make “worm tea” which is worm fertilizer that you can sprinkle on the near roots of the plants. This'll give your plants numerous amounts of nutrients!

