

Build Your Own Worm Bin

Cost: ~ \$10

Construction Time: ~ 30 minutes

Materials:

- Rubbermaid tub with cover - 24" long x 16" wide x 8" deep
- Rubbermaid tub - 24" long x 16" wide x 12" deep

Note: Worms don't like light, so use opaque (not clear) tubs.

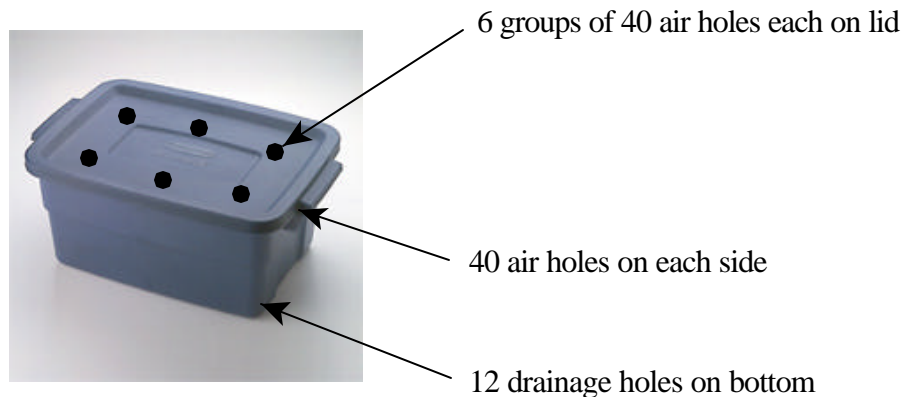
Tools:

- Electric drill with ~ 5/64" and ~ 3/16" diameter drill bits

Construction Details:

The shallower bin (8" deep) will contain the worms, bedding, and food waste. The deeper bin (12" deep) will be used to collect excess liquid.

Worms need air to live. Take the lid of the 8" deep bin and drill 6 groups of 40 holes each. Use a drill bit about 5/64" in diameter for the air holes. Also drill 40 air holes on each side of the 8" deep bin, just under the handle area. Drill 12 holes about 3/16" in diameter in the bottom of the 8" deep bin for drainage. Stack tub with drainage and air holes on top of tub without any holes.



Place several sheets of newspaper or a piece of cardboard on the bottom inside of the top tub. Fill the top tub with shredded newspaper for bedding. Wet the bedding until it is as damp as a sponge. Add red worms (not nightcrawlers). Cover your food waste with the bedding when you put it into the bin.

Refer to U.W. Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center's publication, *Worm Composting* or Mary Appelhof's book, *Worms Eat My Garbage* for information on using your new worm bin.