



DIY WORM FARMS

There are lots of ways to set up a cheap and functional worm farm from everyday items. Here are a few examples.



Styrofoam box worm farm

Fridge worm farm

Fridge worm farms are fantastic for large families, schools and workplaces. The larger space and the insulated walls mean the worms will keep cooler in summer and warmer in winter. This is how you make one:

1. Find a degassed fridge. You can often get degassed fridges for free from fridge shops or from your local resource recovery centre. Or have your fridge degassed by a professional.
2. Remove all the shelves and seals.
3. The fridge needs a drainage hole to catch the worm juice. Some fridges already have one, otherwise you will need to make one about the size of a 10c coin. Insert poly pipe into the drainage hole and fix in place with silicone so no liquid gets into the fridge wall. Place a larger pipe over this to stop worms falling into the drainage pipe.
4. Use silicone to seal any other holes.
5. Put the fridge on a sturdy stand so you can put a container under the drainage hole to catch the juice. Make sure the fridge is slanted so liquid will drain out.
6. Leave it over night for the silicone to dry.
7. Add worms, worm bedding (e.g. soaked coir or damp shredded paper) and place carpet or hessian over the worms.

Styrofoam box worm farms are easy to make from readily available materials.

1. Find two styrofoam boxes of the same size. Most fruit and veggie shops will give them away or sell cheaply.
2. In the bottom of one box poke holes an inch or so apart with a screwdriver.
3. Place the box with holes on top of the box without.
4. Add worms, worm bedding (e.g. coir or damp shredded paper) and place carpet or hessian over the worms.





DOG POO DISPOSER



Dog poo worm farms are a great way to dispose of dog poo. The system is simply to dispose of your dog poo, it is not for harvesting worm castings and for health reasons cannot be used near food crops. The castings and juice produced go directly into the ground where the worm farm is located. This is how to make one:

1. Take a builder's bucket with a sealing lid or similar and cut out the base.
2. Dig it into the ground in a shady place in the garden. The rim of the bucket should be a couple of centimetres above the ground.
3. Add worms, worm bedding (e.g. soaked coir or damp shredded paper) and place carpet or hessian over the worms.

To use the dog poo disposer simply drop in the dog poo. Every week or so add a couple of handfuls of damp shredded paper and a little water to keep the environment moist.

Before the worm farm is full lift out the bucket, leave the uneaten poo and cover with soil. Move the worm farm and some of the worms and castings to another location and start again.



Don't use the worm farm for 2 weeks after you have wormed your dog or you will kill your good worms too!



Worm farming tips

- ◆ Always keep your worm farm in 100% shade.
- ◆ On very hot days place ice on top of the hessian or carpet and keep damp.
- ◆ Don't over feed your worms. Feed little and often.
- ◆ Worms will breed to the capacity of their environment. If you want more worms, add more bedding.
- ◆ Avoid feeding your worms meat, dairy, onions or citrus. It wont kill them, they just don't fancy it!

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