



### DIY Worm Bin Checklist

- Plastic Bin with fitted lid

Example:

[http://www.target.com/p/sterilite-34-gal-latching-tote-titanium-gray/-/A-13796185#prodSlot=medium\\_1\\_16&term=sterillite](http://www.target.com/p/sterilite-34-gal-latching-tote-titanium-gray/-/A-13796185#prodSlot=medium_1_16&term=sterillite)

➔ Consider buying two: One large (like that 34 gallon) and one smaller so that the main bin can complete the compost cycle. If you keep adding scraps, the material will never fully break down, so storing scraps in the second bin until the compost cycle in the main bin is completed is best.

- Drill – drill holes ¼ in or smaller all over the box. For indoor use, drill several holes for ventilation about halfway up the sides of the bin. For outdoor use, holes can be drilled in the bottom for ventilation and drainage.
- Worm Bedding - tear black and white newspapers into one-inch strips, fluff them up, then moisten them with a spray bottle so they are completely wet but not dripping. Fill your bins three-quarters full with this moist bedding. Shredded cardboard, leaves, compost, sawdust, and straw can also be added in as bedding. Do not use glossy paper or magazines. Sprinkle bedding with a few handfuls of soil.
- Worms! – you need a half to one pound of red worms (or “red wigglers”)

Give your worms about a quart (one pound) of fruit and vegetable trimmings, then leave them alone for a couple of weeks while they get used to their new home. After that, feed your worms about a quart of food scraps per square foot of surface area in your bin per week. To avoid fruit flies and odors, bury food under the bedding.

Example: <http://unclejimswormfarm.com/index.php/Live-Worms/500-Red-Wrigglers/flypage.tpl.html>

You can find them locally at a bait shop as well.

- Maintenance

Always keep a 4- to 6-inch layer of fresh bedding over the worms and food in your bin. Add fresh bedding every time you feed the worms. Keep bedding as moist as a wrung-out sponge. In a plastic bin, add dry bedding to absorb excess moisture.

Worms Love	Worms CANNOT Eat
Rinsed, crushed egg shells	Fats and oils
Coffee grounds	Processed foods
Fruits (avoid citrus) and Veggies	Meat, poultry, bones& dairy
Grains: bread, pasta, oatmeal	
Garden waste: dried grass clipping, leaves	



- Curriculum: <http://www.in.gov/idem/iee/2369.htm>