

Vermicomposting

DEATH	ODOURLESS	SCRAPS	SKIN	SPECIES	ANNELIDS
REPRODUCTION	MOIST	FERTILIZER	GRIND	DECOMPOSERS	WATER
		BIN		OFFSPRINGS	

Worms are incredible **1-**_____. The worms we use for composting in boxes are surface feeders called *Eisena foetida*. They are also called manure worms, red wigglers, or red worms.

These **2-**_____ are different from the common earth worms which are slower to reproduce and to digest food. Over 7,000 **3-**_____ of worms inhabit the world, and they are important to ecosystems.

Worm composting is a fun, low maintenance way of recycling your organic kitchen **4-**_____. Worms eat your vegetative food scraps, turning them into a dark brown, earthy-smelling material called worm casting. Castings, which are nitrogen-rich **5-**_____, can be returned to the earth and are good for lawns, gardens, and houseplants.

In order to vermicompost, you have provide the living environment for the worms—the **6-**_____, bedding, and food—and the worms do the rest. Worm composting can be done inside or outside (depending on climate), requires no turning, is **7-**_____ if done correctly, and can be done in small spaces.



Fun Facts

- They have five pairs of hearts, no eyes, and no teeth; they **8-**_____ the food in their gizzard.
- They breathe through their **9-**_____, and need dark, **10-**_____ surroundings. If their skin dries out, they will die.
- Eight adult redworms can produce 1,500 **11-**_____ within six months, if conditions are favourable.
- Each worm is both male and female (hermaphrodite) but a pair of them is needed for successful **12-**_____.
- Worms can eat more than half their weight in food every day.
- In ancient Egypt under Cleopatra's rule, it is reported that anyone who knowingly killed a worm would be sentenced to **13-**_____.
- Today, there are engineers in India who are learning how to clean sewage **14-**_____ using worm systems.