

Vermicomposting

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

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