



# How to build a worm farm in five easy steps

Creating a colony of wriggly worms to turn food waste into fertiliser will reap benefits - for your garden and the planet.

Sending food waste to landfill is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. But it's easy to recycle food scraps and teach your kids an important lesson about the environment by building a worm farm.

You can halve your food waste while creating your own high-quality organic fertiliser for a thriving home veggie patch.

Kids will love getting their hands dirty making a worm farm and learning how to care for their new pets - with the added bonus of producing "worm tea" to share with friends and family as gifts. Here's how to do it...

Worm farms are fun and educational.





### What you will need:

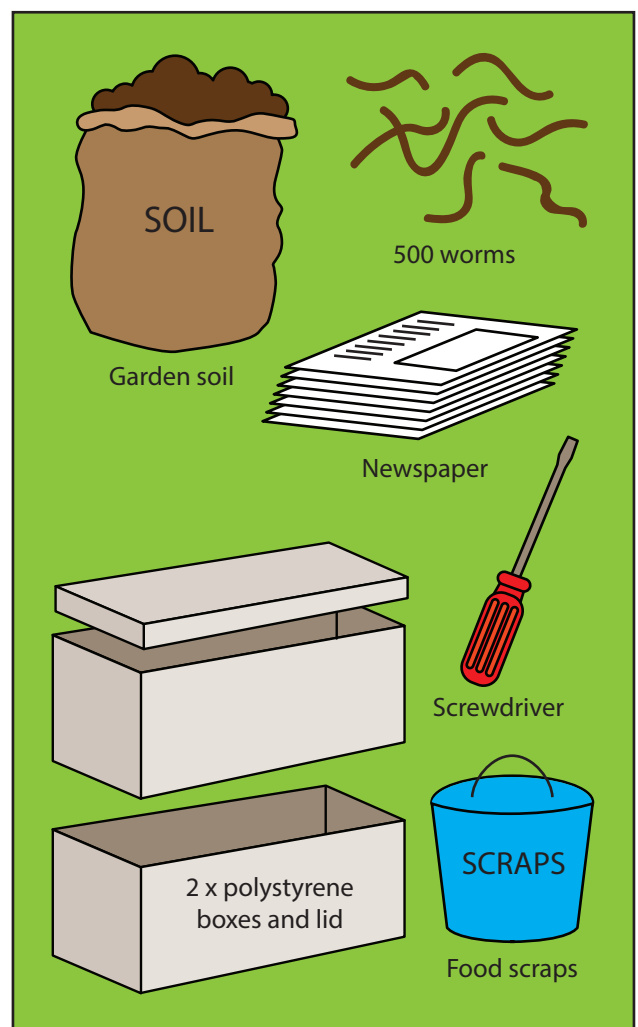
- 2 x polystyrene boxes of the same size
- Garden soil
- 500 worms
- A screwdriver
- Food scraps
- Newspaper
- 1 x polystyrene lid

### Step 1

Choose a home for your worm farm. While many garden centres and hardware stores sell purpose-built worm farms, it's just as easy to make your own using two large polystyrene boxes (broccoli boxes work well).

Using a screwdriver, poke 12 equally spaced drainage holes in the base of one box and sit it on top of the first one.

Then put your worm farm on the ground in a spot that is shady and cool.





### Step 2

Put a 10cm-thick layer of shredded newspaper on the base of the top box.

Add soil and spray gently with water so that it's well moistened. The box should be about three-quarters full.

### Step 3

Buy your worms from a garden centre, hardware store or pet shop. (Don't use earthworms from your garden.) Usually you'll get a bag with about 500 or 1000 worms. Introduce the worms to their new home, spreading them evenly across the surface.

### Step 4

Once your worms have settled in, you can start feeding them with vegetable and fruit scraps, tea bags (without strings), coffee grounds and soft leaves.

Worms need to live in a sheltered spot that is shady and cool.





Don't add meat as it will attract vermin, and avoid citrus and onions which are acidic so worms don't like them much. Put your lid on top or, if you don't have one, cover with a piece of carpet or hessian.

### Step 5

Lift the lid every few days to ensure that the newspaper has not dried out. If it seems too dry, spray with a little water and add a little more vegetable matter.

After about two weeks, lift the top box off and you should find liquid in the base of the bottom box.

Dilute this with water (about 10 parts water to one part worm juice, until it is the colour of weak tea).

Pour it into a watering can and sprinkle your plants every couple of weeks - it's a totally organic fertiliser. Kids will love decanting the worm tea into bottles and jars, decorating them with labels and sharing out among family and friends.

