



Vermicomposting

Vermicomposting uses worms (“vermi” is Latin for “worm”) to process organic food waste into nutrient-rich amendment for your soil. The red wigglers supplied by El Corazon Compost Facility will eat your food discards and turn them into compost that can be used to fertilize your garden.

Worms will eat their own weight in food everyday making your backyard ‘greener’ and reducing the waste your family sends to the landfills. Food waste accounts for about 30% of the waste a family produces so recycling at home makes environmental sense!

Having 2 or 3 small bins is helpful for larger families, so that the worms can process food thoroughly while a new bin is started. Be sure to keep your bin in a cool place out of direct sunlight.

Bedding

After constructing your bin, you will need to provide bedding. The easiest bedding to make is from newspapers, but don’t use glossy inserts or magazine type paper. You can also use paper from your shredder, coir fiber, peat moss or humic compost.

Feeding

Your worms will eat almost anything you do! Kitchen scraps consisting of fruits and vegetables, coffee filters, tea bags and egg shells can be used. Worms don’t have teeth, so adding a bit of soil or eggshells will help the worms grind up the food in their gizzard.

It is best to avoid meats, dairy and oily foods. You will find the worms will break down the scraps faster if they are chopped up into small pieces. Bury the food at least an inch deep to keep fruit flies and odors out.

Harvesting

There are many different ways of harvesting your compost, but here are two easy methods:

1. After you have had your worm bin for a few weeks, push the compost over to one side and add new bedding, making sure that it is wet. Only place food in the new bedding and your worms will move to that side. You can remove the compost and use it on your trees, flowers and vegetables. Place new bedding in the harvested area and you can keep harvesting in this manner indefinitely.
2. Open the bin in the sunlight for 10 to 15 minutes. The worms will move deep into the compost and you can scoop off the top layer.

