

# IN-GROUND WORM TUBE

A guide to  
successfully  
setting it up


In-ground worm tubes are ideal for households with garden beds. With an in-ground worm tube, you'll get many of the benefits of worm farming without the work of maintaining a Worm Café.

## How to get started

1. Choose a **shady well-drained location** in your garden that you can access easily. You can position the tube close to plants that will benefit from soil improvement and nutrients.
2. Dig a hole a bit **larger than the tube and as deep as its height**. Wet the soil before digging to make it easier.
3. Place your worm tube in the hole. The top of the tube (**about 3 to 5 cm**) should be above the ground.
4. With the lid on, put the soil back around the tube and press gently.
5. Before placing the worms in the tube, add some bedding materials such as **castings, moist coir, wet newspapers, newspapers or moist shredded cardboard**.
6. Add about **1/2 kilo or 500 composting worms** (you can purchase these or ask a friend with a worm farm to give you a handful).
7. Add a layer of wet newspapers on top of the worms. Replace the lid and water around the tube to create a **moist environment for the worms**.
8. Wait a few days before adding food waste, so the worms can settle in.
9. Add food scraps as they are produced.




## Fun facts:


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- » Did you know your composting worms don't like to live in soil? They will stay inside the worm tube where there is food and provide you with rich castings (poo) that you can remove and sprinkle on top of your garden beds.

- » Don't worry for your plants, worms don't eat live materials, only dead and decaying matter.


- » If you'd like to speed up the process, you can gently turn the pile every couple of weeks. Use your hands, a garden fork, or an aerator.

- » Worms don't like it when it's too hot, you might have to water your tube in summer to keep it cool.

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- » Remember that it will take time for your worms to multiply, so don't worry if the process is a bit slow at first. It will speed up over time!

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- » Your worms will breed in the tube, so when you have a healthy population, you can use a handful to start another tube!

- » Worms feed from the bottom of the tube and eat their way up, so you might not be able to see them if you don't look under food scraps.

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- » Did you know that worms don't have teeth? They suck their food in, so smaller the food particles, more your worms will eat.

- » If you're the DIY type, you can make your own worm tube by using an old plastic garbage bin or a builder's bucket. Cut off the base so the bottom is completely open and drill holes in the sides at various heights.

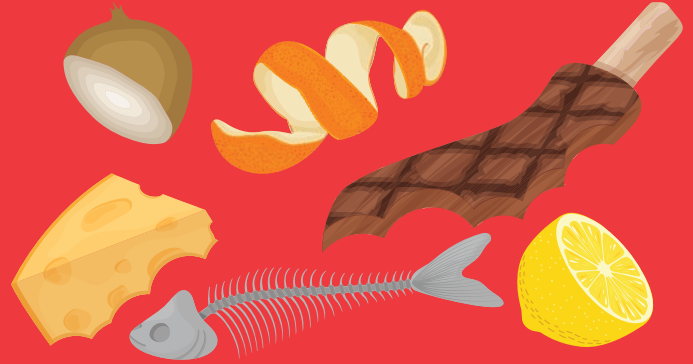
# What to feed your worms

## WORMS LOVE



- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Fruits and veggie scraps
- ✓ Paper and tissues
- ✓ Crushed eggshells
- ✓ Bread

## WORMS HATE



- × Citrus
- × Onions and garlic
- × Dairy
- × Meat and bones
- × Oily or salty food

## What to do when the tube is full?

**Worms will eat your food scraps and leave behind castings. When space in your tube becomes limited because it is full of castings, you can:**

1. Take the food scraps still sitting at the top of the tube out. Remove the castings and sprinkle over your garden beds. Replace your food scraps in the tube and let your worms start from scratch and gradually eat their way up.
2. Stop adding food scraps to the tube, let it be eaten by the worms and then use the castings around your garden beds.
3. Install a new worm tube somewhere else in your garden and move a handful of your worms in there. Follow the same steps you took for the first tube.