

## Getting Started

1. **Line the bottom of the bin** with the biodegradable paper.
2. **Add roughly 8 inches of compost to the bin.** Avoid large wood chips and sticks which can cause problems for harvesting.
3. **Add worms.** Around 7 lbs of worms is ideal, but if you start with fewer, they will multiply under good conditions.
4. **Leave the light on and the lid off for the first few days.** Worms will try to leave a new environment. Since they are light sensitive, leaving the lights on will keep them in place until they are adjusted.
5. **Add about 3 inches of compost** to the bin every week.
6. **Start harvesting when the bin is around half full** by running the knife back and forth twice. Put the first couple harvests back in the top of the bin.

## For Best Results

1. Worms are most active between 55°–80° F.
2. Pre-composted feedstocks are highly recommended:
  - Worms can process pre-composted materials faster and more efficiently.
  - The decomposition process can attract pests and generate bad odors, as well as high temperatures which are detrimental to worm activity.
  - In particular, avoid meat and dairy items, citrus and other acidic materials, or anything that may contain herbicides, pesticides or antibiotics.
3. Ideal moisture content is 50 – 70%
  - Hydrate by misting the surface of the compost with a pump sprayer. If you squeeze a handful of compost, a drop or two of water should come out.
  - Hard water can be detrimental to microbes. Off-gassing chlorinated water or using rainwater is recommended.
  - If the bin is too wet, liquid will pool in the collecting pans.

For more information, read *The Worm Farmer's Handbook* by Rhonda Sherman.

## Where to buy worms

- Meme's worms: <https://www.memesworms.com>
- Uncle Jims: <https://www.unclejimswormfarm.com>
- Urban Worm Company: <https://urbanwormcompany.com>



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