



## WORM FARM

If you blend your vegetable scraps into smoothies for easier worm digestion... If you spend more time with your worms than your family, then you might be a worm farmer.



A vermiculturist specialises in the practice of vermiculture, which involves the cultivation and management of earth-worms for various purposes.

We started our worm farming journey like most people do with a small commercial worm bin but we soon outgrew it. We found that we wanted more of the gorgeous worm juice and castings to fertilise our veggie seedlings than a small population of worms could produce.

We did a bit of research and opted to build our new worm farm or more accurately our five-star worm hotel out of an old bath which we sourced from the local Tip Shop for just \$25. Together with a bit of secondhand plumbing pipe, a small tap from a 20 litre water container, several old plastic veggie trays, some drainage rocks and some bedding we very quickly had a cheap functioning system.

However... we couldn't resist building an architecturally pleasing frame for the bath out of some macrocarpa planking and treated pine framing we had left over from other garden projects. This added to the overall cost but is entirely optional and really the worms don't give a fig about aesthetics!

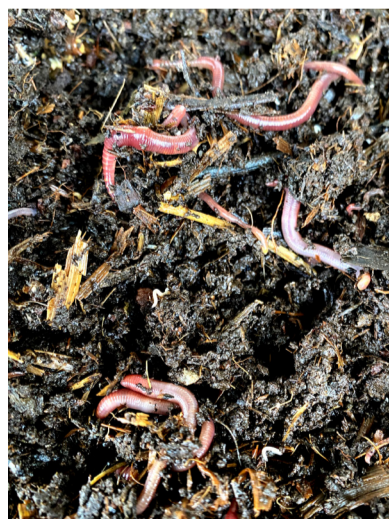


**1** Line the bath with upside-down veggie trays and add drainage rocks (approx. 15cm deep) to complete the first layer. Make sure you use fine wire mesh over the bath outlet to reduce the likelihood of soil blocking the outlet and to stop any worm escapees.

**2** Cover the drainage layer with a geotextile material or shade cloth.

**3** Add a bedding layer of shredded paper, straw and coconut coir (approx. 25cm deep).

**4** Next create a layer of a mix of manure, compost and more coconut coir (approx. 25cm deep).



**5** Water in the contents so the mixture resembles the consistency of a wrung out sponge.

**6** Add your worms and watch them quickly dive below the surface layer. Let your worms settle in for 3-4 days before you add any food. Worms don't have teeth, so we blend up food scraps for our worms so that they are easier to digest.

**7** Cover with old carpet or hessian sacks to create a safe dark environment.

**8** Collect worm juice and dilute to the colour of weak tea before using on your plants.