

Join us this summer for FUN and FAN !

Floyd Action Network presents

**Rain Barrel Workshop - Saturday, June 28, 10 am to 1 pm.**

Learn how to make and install a rain barrel. You make it and take it. Bring your lunch. Beverage on us.

Register by June 23, 2014.

FAN members - \$15 per barrel

Non-members - \$35 per rain barrel

If you join FAN today, you may register for the Rain Barrel Workshop and enjoy the discount!



**Sustainable Home Tour - Saturday, September 20, 1 pm. Tour local homes whose owners live more sustainably and harmoniously with our planet . . . not off the grid, but almost.**

Register by September 13, 2014

FAN members - FREE

Non-members - \$20 per person

Join FAN today and register for the Sustainable Home Tour for FREE!

Visit [www.FloydActionNetwork.org](http://www.FloydActionNetwork.org) to become a member, and to register for events.

For more information contact us at [FAN@FloydActionNetwork.org](mailto:FAN@FloydActionNetwork.org).





Troubleshooting		
Problem	Probable Cause	Solution
Worms are dying or trying to escape	Too wet	Add more bedding
	Too dry	Moisten bedding
	Bedding is used up	Harvest your bin
Bin stinks!	Not enough air	Drill more ventilation holes
	Too much food	Do not feed for 1-2 weeks
	Too wet	Add more bedding
Fruit Flies	Exposed food	Bury food in bedding

Check out [Composting with Red worms](http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/Redwormsedit.htm) (http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/Redwormsedit.htm) for lots more information about caring for worms. If you want to use your carpentry skills, you can view plans for a [wooden worm bin](http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/wormbins.htm) (http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/wormbins.htm)

From: http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/index.htm .



www.FloydActionNetwork.org  
 FAN@FloydActionNetwork.org  
 P O Box 211, Floyds Knobs, IN 4711

## Cheap and Easy Worm Bin!

Composting with red worms is great for apartment dwellers who don't have yard space, or for those who don't want to hike to a backyard compost bin with their food scraps. Some kids like to keep worms for pets! By letting worms eat your food wastes, you'll end up with one of the best soil amendments available—worm castings. This is the cheapest and easiest to manage worm bin system that I've seen:

### Materials Needed to Make an Easy Harvester Worm Bin:

- Two 8-10 gallon plastic storage boxes (dark, not see through!) as shown in pictures Cost: about \$5 each
  - Drill (with 1/4" and 1/16" bits) for making drainage & ventilation holes
  - Newspaper
- About one pound of red worms



### Step 1

Drill about twenty evenly spaced 1/4 inch holes in the bottom of each bin. These holes will provide drainage and allow the worms to crawl into the second bin when you are ready to harvest the castings.



### Step 2

Drill ventilation holes about 1 - 1 1/2 inches apart on each side of the bin near the top edge using the 1/16 inch bit. Also drill about 30 small holes in the top of **one** of the lids.



**Step 3**  
Prepare bedding for the worms by shredding newspaper into 1 inch strips. Worms need bedding that is moist but not soggy. Moisten the newspaper by soaking it in water and then squeezing out the excess water. Cover the bottom of the bin with 3-4 inches of moist newspaper, fluffed up. If you have any old leaves or leaf litter that can be

added also. Throw in a handful of dirt for "grit" to help the worms digest their food

**Step 4**  
Add your worms to the bedding. One way to gather red worms is to put out a large piece of wet cardboard on your lawn or garden at night. The red worms live in the top 3 inches of organic material, and like to come up and feast on the wet cardboard! Lift up cardboard to gather the red worms. An

earthworm can consume about 1/2 of its weight each day. For example, if your food waste averages 1/2 lb. per day, you will need 1 lb. of worms or a 2:1 ratio. There are roughly 500 worms in one pound. If you start out with less than one pound, don't worry they multiply very quickly. Just adjust the amount that you feed them for your worm population.

**Step 5**  
Cut a piece of cardboard to fit over the bedding, and get it wet. Then cover the bedding with the cardboard. (Worms love cardboard, and it breaks down within months.)



**Step 6**  
Place your bin in a well-ventilated area such as a laundry room, garage, balcony, under the kitchen sink, or outside in the shade. Place the bin on top of blocks or bricks or upside down plastic containers to allow for drainage. You can use the lid of the second bin as a tray to catch any moisture that may drain from the bin. This "worm tea" is a great liquid fertilizer.

**Step 7**  
Feed your worms slowly at first. As the worms multiply, you can begin to add more food. Gently bury the food in a different section of the bin each week, under the cardboard. The worms will follow the food scraps around the bin. Burying the food scraps will help to keep fruit flies away. What do worms like to eat? Feed your worms a vegetarian diet. Most things that would normally go down the garbage disposal can go into your worm bin (see the list below). You will notice that some foods will be eaten faster than others. Worms have their preferences just like we do.

**Feeding your worms:**

Worms LOVE	Worms HATE
Breads & Grains	Dairy Products
Cereal	Fats
Coffee grounds & filter	Meat
Fruits	Feces
Tea bags	Oils
Vegetables	

When the first bin is full and there are no recognizable food scraps, place new bedding material in the second bin and place the bin directly on the compost surface of the first bin. Bury your food scraps to the bedding of the second bin. In one to two months, most of the worms will have moved to the second bin in search of food. Now the first bin will contain (almost) worm free vermicompost. (You can gently lift out any worms that might remain, and place them in the new bin, or put them into your garden.)