

The Worm Bin

Who We Are

- There are hundreds of redworms in this bin. We are very small. Our bedding is harvested (castings removed and new bedding added) every three to four months.
- Other insects sometimes found in the bin are “good bugs.” They will probably be very small. They help break down the organic wastes.

Setting Up Our Home

- The plastic lid is for transportation only. If the lid is left on, the bin gets too hot and we will die.
- We don't like the light. Place newspaper on top of our bedding, leaving a 2” perimeter uncovered around the box.
- Place our bin where the temperature can be maintained between 50-75 degrees. **DO NOT LEAVE THE BIN IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT OR ON AN AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING UNIT.**
- Stir the bedding around our food piles occasionally. Add shredded newspaper and stir it in if the bedding becomes too damp. Our bedding should be the consistency of a wrung-out sponge.

What We Eat

- One pound of worms (about 1,200) will eat one pound of food in two days. We can be fed about 1½ pounds of food scraps per day. When our worm population increases, our daily amount of food should increase.
- We eat all vegetative matter, such as fruit and vegetable scraps and peels, onionskins, tea bags, coffee grounds, potato peels, bread, corn flakes, and crushed egg shells. We can eat more easily if our food is cut into small pieces.
- Overfeeding will cause our bin to have a foul odor. It may become anaerobic (lacking oxygen). To correct the problem, stir our bedding, and don't feed us for a while.
- Underfeeding reduces the worm population. Begin feeding us again and our numbers will increase.
- Don't worry about us over the weekend. We will survive unattended for a few days with food left in the bin.

We're Easy to Please, But

- **DO NOT FEED US** meat products. It may attract flies, ants, or mice. Sharp bones may injure hands when burying food scraps.
- **DO NOT FEED US** canned fruits with sugary syrup, animal fat, oils, or dairy products like cheese. They can become rancid.
- **DO NOT ADD** animal waste – it can cause disease.

If a lot of worms are dying in the bin, it may be too salty or acidic (from too many oranges, etc.) We may be too hot, or we don't have enough air. Aerate our bedding by stirring it well, and add fresh bedding.

If you have any questions, please call us at the Westmorland Cleanways office. Enjoy!

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To reserve the worm bin for your group, call:
(724) 836-4129, or email:
info@westmorelandcleanways.org