

This is a visual log of my experience with the Worm Factory.

In October of 2022, I began to log my experience using the Worm Factory to compost my household food waste at the rate of one person per bin. However, I don't know how many worms have been in the bin.



October of 2022 I began to log the experience working with the Worm Factory. I used this particular method for vermiculture because my dad gave me bin after he had little to no success with it. There are a few methods out there for small scale vermiculture both DIY and not. What I've found is that when they fail, it's for the similar reasons.

Inquiry:

Nearly half of the adults living in cities around the world are living alone. Can a Worm Factory take care of one persons scraps?





These are the basic components of worm composting.

I would add -

Temperature 40 - 80 degrees

Moisture content

Curing process for making tea.

October 29th



When I started, the bedding was an old jute rug left in the rain and mud. Worms had already begun to eat it, so it seemed right to use it. Second layer was raked yard waste that had been sitting in the bin for some time.

I had an old jute rug that was that was left in the backyard and got rained on. I found it in the mud and worms had started to eat it. So I used it as bedding in the first layer in the Factory. The second layer was yard waste. Here in the bin about a week old. Remember, it was after a soaking rain so all that went in initially was well saturated.



I got some worms from this thriving bin.



This is my husbands worm bin.

These photos were taken about ten years ago and this bin has been thriving since then.

What you see in the second photo is the result of his harvesting process. He let black gold sit out exposed to the sun and then, brushed the soil off the top as the worms retreated to the center.



Worm Diet My Diet

Inquiry - Can one Worm Factory
take care of one persons food
scraps?



Coffee grounds - loose tea -
cut banana peels - salad
scraps - etc

So for my Worm Factory experiment, the worms eat what I eat & drink.

My intention was to have the worms in the factory take care of all my scraps. One person one bin. I'll say that I produce an average amount of kitchen waste.

Here is a bowl of me average waste per 3-5 days containing coffee grounds, loose tea, cut banana peels, sink knock out, etc. You can see this is a bit moist. I may have chucked an old cuppa.

I do cut things to size.

The below bin is last weeks scraps that will go in the bin first and the new stuff will get mixed with whats left of that.

Split bin feeding

- feeding half of the bin at a time.



Hard to tell from this photo, but I feed half of the bin a week so on the right is the two week old side, and the left the one week old side.

Thank you Mary.

Two week old feeding.

There are little to no worms on this side of the bin.



Note that on the 2 week old side there are no worms.

I do the same with the food. I keep scraps in a bucket till feeding time. I put in the bin what was already in the bucket, and the fresher stuff goes in the bucket.

Kitchen - bucket - bin

Week old feeding

Many worms on this recently fed side of the bin.



Here is the one week side. The worms have moved over the the food source and are thriving.

I also notice they are mostly the same size. and I wonder if these are the same kind of worm I started with as I had added some worms that were given to me that may have been a different species.



New feeding

The food was a little soupy. I added slips of cardboard with the channels up so I wouldn't cut off oxygen to the layer below.

I added food and yes it's soupy. So I added slips of corrugated cardboard with the holes exposed to add some air.

One week
after the
last slide.



I had not touched or opened the bin
in a week.

This is one week later.

I did these things that were different from any YouTuber I found working with the Worm Factory:

I cut up food to thumb size pieces.

I mixed food in a bucket which allowed for control of moisture. It was also a week in the bucket before it went into the bin and thoroughly moist.



March
22nd



Here is the bottom tray.
In the 5 months since I started. The rug is completely gone.



What I've learned:

- First, chopping and mixing the food beforehand made retaining moisture easy and I never had to add water.
- I kept the bin indoors over the winter, taking it outside once a week for feeding. I saw no flying bugs and had no smells till spring at which time I kept it outside on the patio.
- In the first nine months, I have frozen worm food and have also fed my husbands Can-o-Worms.

QUESTIONS!

Hopefully, your experiencing this as a live presentation.