

# Make Your Own **WORM FARM**

From Reused & Recycled Materials



**CHRISTCHURCH**

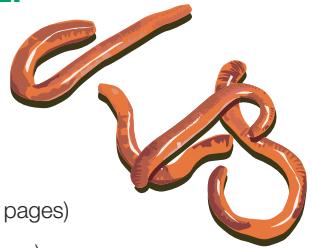
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## WHAT IS WORM COMPOSTING?

Composting is our effort to replicate nature's recycling system. As with all composting it is simply gathering together waste organic materials and mixing them so that worms and other micro-organisms can do their work. A wormery is a self-contained composting system that doesn't generate heat, and retains most nutrients for reuse. Properly maintained it is an odourless system. This leaflet contains simple guidelines on worm composting, or vermi-composting as it is also known.

## TO MAKE YOUR WORM FARM YOU WILL REQUIRE:

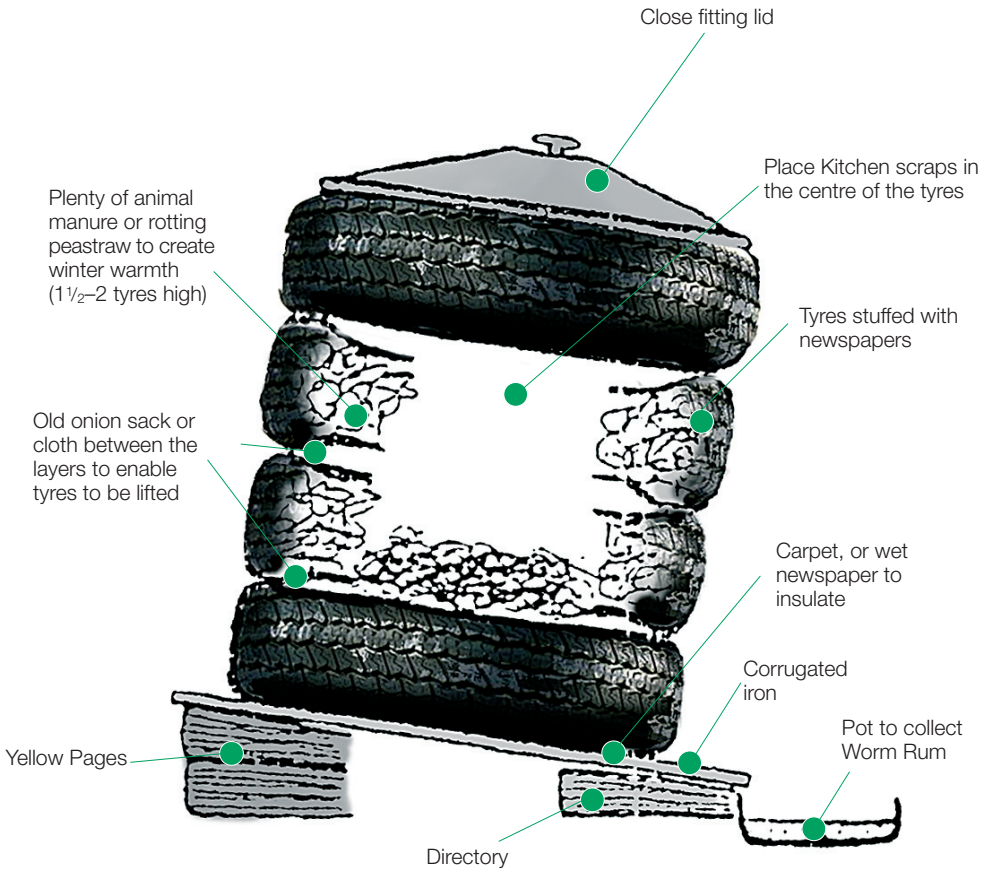
- 3 phone books: 2 yellow pages + 1 directory
- 1 piece of corrugated iron – 600 x 600mm
- 3 or 4 car tyres of similar size
- 1 close fitting lid (piece of wood with a rock on it is OK)
- Approx. 35 Saturday newspapers (Avoid coloured or glossy pages)
- 1 container – suggest an old pot to collect the liquid (worm rum)
- Some old onion sacks or shade cloth to put between each tyre
- Old carpet or sack if available (optional)
- Lots of Tiger worms (they like to live above the ground). Worms suitable for your worm farm can be found in your yellow pages under "worm farming"



## BUILDING YOUR WORM FARM

It is a good idea to build your Worm Farm reasonably close to the back door, in a sunny spot, (all day sun is best during winter but you may need to relocate it into the shade in summer.

1. Place the corrugated iron on top of the telephone books (see picture on next page)
2. Soak the newspapers in water and stuff the tyres full of the damp newspaper. Adding a handful of dirt to the water before soaking the paper provides grit necessary for the worms diet
3. Stack up the tyres on top of the corrugated iron. Dig a hollow for the pot to collect the worm rum which runs off the iron
4. Fill the bottom tyre with shredded damp paper (it makes good bedding material). Add worms (250gm)
5. Feed regularly with kitchen scraps and keep the mixture moist to touch



## Now you have a Worm Farm!

You can start recycling all your kitchen organics: empty them into the farm and feed the worms daily, or whenever convenient.

For more detail on Worm Composting check out our brochure "A Guide to Worm Composting."



## MAINTAINING YOUR WORM FARM

1. Keep the worms and bedding covered with newspaper, cardboard or carpet. Water the worm farm with a bucket of water every 2–3 weeks in summer and once during winter. Place your lid on top of the stack to prevent fly problems. Make sure the worms bedding is always moist – you may not need to add extra water if you give them lots of moist food scraps.
2. As the tyre stack fills up (this normally takes several months) slide out the bottom tyre and empty it of worm castings/ vermicast. The paper in the tyre will probably be full of worms and can be put back into the tyre, used in your garden or compost heap or given to friends to start new worm farms.
3. The empty tyre is now ready for reuse – stuff with fresh, moist newspaper and place on top of the tyre stack.
4. Regularly empty the pot of worm rum – dilute 8 to 1 with water and spray or pour on to and around your plants.
5. The nutrients from you kitchen scraps are now available for you to use in your garden and your worm population will have increased remarkably.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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