

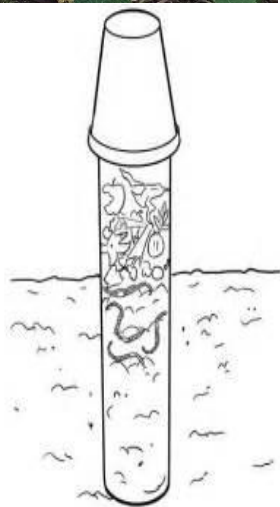
# DIY IN-GROUND WORM TOWER

## FEED WORMS, NOT THE BIN!

Worm farming is a great way to turn household waste into nourishment for your garden's soil life!

This **DIY worm tower tutorial** will guide you through making your own in-ground worm farm using readily available materials. Worm towers are one of the easiest ways to become a backyard worm farmer.

So let's get a wiggle on and start worm farming!



## **What you'll need...**

### **FOR THE WORM TOWER:**

**PVC pipe** Minimum 50cm long, ideally 150mm in diameter but no less than 100mm diameter, the wider the better. If you need to purchase pipe, 1m and 3m lengths can be bought from Bunnings in either 150mm or 100mm diameter. (Product codes: 150mm #4770092 or 100mm #4770090);  
or

### **10 or 20L food grade plastic buckets with tight fitting lid**

Buckets will make larger sized worm towers. Ask your local baker or food supplier for any they might be throwing them away,

### **Drill**

### **Drill bit 10mm or larger**

### **FOR THE LID:**

### **Pot-plant saucer or Plant-pot**

Terracotta saucer, pot or plastic pot; or

### **End caps – push on type**

Can be purchased from Bunnings (Product code: 150mm #4770361 or 100mm #4770360) plus a handle will need to be fitted for easier access (you can use rope or a spare cupboard handle)

### **FOR THE GARDEN:**

### **Shovel or post hole digger**

**Don't forget the composting worms!!** Ask a worm farming friend if they can spare some composting worms to get you started otherwise purchase from a local Knox supplier. Contact Sue Davis of Wurundjeri Worms on 0407 149 967. Sue sells top quality worms at \$30 for 1000, call & collect or postage available.

**Safety and care:** This activity involves the use of power tools so follow manufacturer's instructions with care. Use an old sheet or tarp to catch the plastic fillings from the drilling process and dispose in bin.

### **MAKING THE WORM TOWER:**

Cut the length of pipe to suit your taste- 30cm of the pipe will be buried in the ground so for more discreet worm towers start with a 50cm length or why not have them longer and make a feature out of them with some bright paint. Lay the pipe along the ground then measure and mark a spot 25cm from one end. Steady the pipe and drill holes in a line until the 25cm mark, distance holes about a thumbs-width apart. Turn the pipe and repeat drilling in rows until holes cover one end of the pipe. You can also pre-drill holes then use a bigger bit.

If you are making a worm tower using a food grade plastic bucket, drill holes in the bottom of the bucket and up the walls to the 25 cm level. Remove as many plastic shavings as possible.



### **INSTALLATION:**

Choose a spot in your garden. Raised garden beds are a great place for a worm tower. Avoid installing in heavy clay-like soils as worm towers may flood. Dig a hole in the garden bed 30 cm deep. Sit the pipe or bucket in the dug hole and check the drilled holes of the worm tower are below ground level. Push the soil back around the pipe and gently firm.

Pop on the lid you will be using. If using a plant pot, saucer or kitchen pot lid, sit on top. If using a plastic pot, add a rock to the top to keep out other animals. If using end caps, install handle before fitting lid onto pipe.



### **FEEDING:**

Inside the worm tower start by adding a layer of bedding- soaked newspaper or straw works well. Then add your worms (say hello and give them some kind words as they will be working hard to feed your garden!) Now you can add some chopped up food scraps in small pieces - the smaller the better. Only feed a small amount of scraps to start with as the worms will take a couple of weeks to settled in and begin breeding. You will notice you can push the scraps down once previous feeds have been converted into worm castings. Composting worms eat decaying organic matter – a variety is best for a diversity of nutrients in the soil so add your veggie and fruit scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds, hair, crushed egg shells plus don't forget to include materials rich in carbon think egg cartons, ripped up paper envelopes, non-oily paper towels, ripped up and empty toilet rolls, non-glossy newspaper. Things to keep out: meat, dairy, grains and citrus.

N.B. Adding composting worms to the worm tower is optional however highly recommended. Earthworms already living in your garden will eventually find your worm tower however adding composting worms who have a greater appetite will speed up the processing of scraps.



### **MAINTENANCE:**

Worm towers allow the nutrients from the castings to flow through to the surrounding soil but unlike other worm farms harvesting it is hard to access the castings for use in other areas of your garden. Why not add a few worm towers to your garden and rotate feeding between them.

**You are now a backyard worm farmer supporting life in the soil for a healthier planet!!**



Scan QR code to watch a DIY worm tower video tutorial and learn more about worm farming at [tonyitheworm.com!](http://tonyitheworm.com)

**TONYI**  
  
**THE WORM**