

Science

Learn about worms, what they do and why they are important by making a wormery.

You will need

- A large, clear container that you are able to pierce holes in - you could use a plastic box, a plastic bottle with the top cut off or a large plastic or glass jar. Whatever you can find. It will need a lid too, improvise with whatever you can find, as long as you can put some air holes in. You could always just put a plastic bag over the top and secure with tape or a plastic band.
- Different types of soil or sand and gravel
- Old leaves and grass
- Vegetable peelings
- Old newspaper
- A piece of black paper or black bin bag to wrap around the container to keep it dark for the worms.
- Some worms that you find in the garden.

- The first thing you need to do is find some worms, look under stones, in damp places or dig a hole, carefully put them in a bucket or some other container while you make your wormery.
- Now you're ready to start the wormery. First add a layer of gravel to the bottom of your container, this will help with the drainage and will give it a heavier base to stop it from tipping over. .
- Next add a layer of damp newspaper for bedding.
- After you have put the paper in you can layer your different types of soil and sand. If your soil is very dry add some water too but not too much, just enough to make it damp.
- Now you can gently transfer your worms into your wormery and let them burrow in.
- Add your leaves, grass and vegetable peelings on top
- Put your lid on top and then put your wormery in your garden where you are planning to keep it. Preferably a dark corner.
- Wrap your dark paper or bag around the container as worms like to be in the dark.
- Over the following week you should see the sand and soil layers get mixed up as the worms burrow down. The leaves, grass and peelings should get pulled down into the soil and it all gets mixed up together.
- This is what worms do in the garden, they help carry different materials down into the soil where it breaks down and turns into food that helps plants to grow and all the tunnels that the worms make allow water to travel down into the soil to get to the roots of the plants that also helps the plants to grow.

