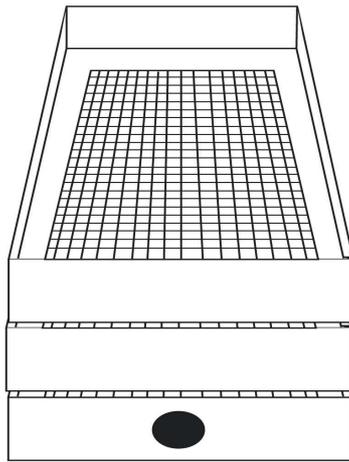


How to build a wormery using stacking boxes



You will need

- Three stacking boxes (the type you can store kids toys in). You will need to buy one with a lid or make your own from a piece of hardboard or plywood (big enough to stop any rain from getting in)
- 2m of weld mesh (smallest gauge is best)
- A pair of wire cutters
- Thin wire or garden ties
- Drill with small drill bit or bevel
- Hacksaw or sharp knife (such as a Stanley knife)
- Plastic tap (from water butt or brewing barrel)
- Small bag of stone chippings
- A newspaper

Instructions

1. Remove the base of two of the boxes, but leave a 5cm edge all the way round the base so that the weld mesh can be attached to it. Draw on guidelines with marker pen before cutting with a sharp knife (such as a Stanley knife) or drill large holes in each marked corner and cut with a hacksaw (Fig.1).

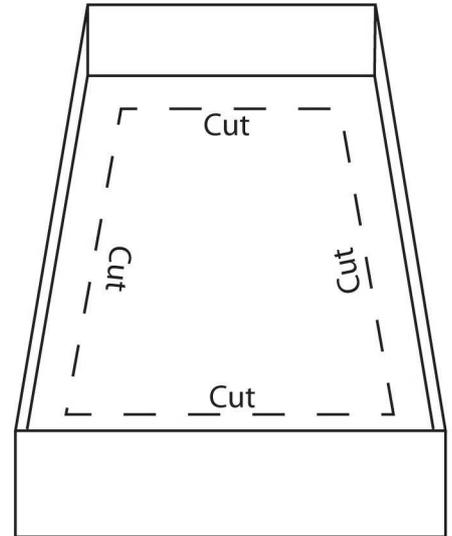


Fig.1

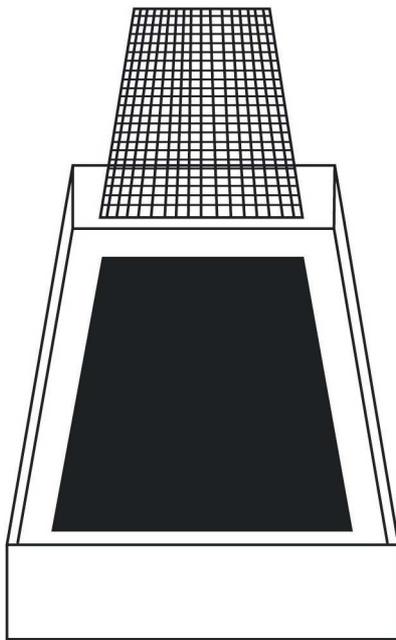


Fig.2

2. Cut the weld mesh to fit inside the box. Make small holes in the box edge (with the drill or bevel) to thread through wire or garden ties to secure weld mesh to box. Use around 8 attachments equally spaced around box edge, twist the wire or garden tie to make sure the weld mesh does not come off (Fig.2).

3. Make a hole to accommodate the tap in the uncut box about 5cm from the bottom. Secure the tap with a washer and plastic nut on the inside (Fig.3).

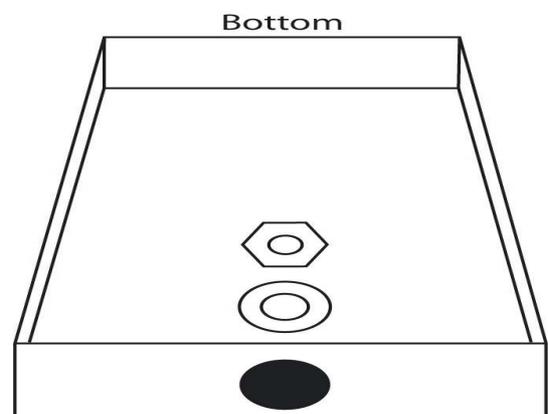


Fig.3

4. Add a layer of stone chippings (approximately 10cm deep) into the box with tap, this will allow the wormery to drain but will prevent any escaped worms from drowning.

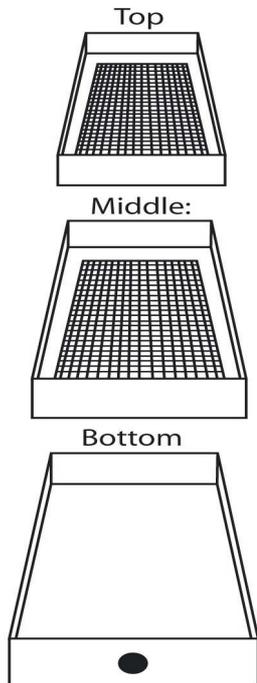


Fig.4

5. To build the wormery, place the box with the tap the bottom (place on some bricks or a wooden box to allow access to the tap), then add one of the boxes with the weld mesh. In this box add a layer of newspaper (to prevent the worms falling through) and then put in a 5cm layer of compost. Add worms (tiger or brandling) into the compost. Place the box with lid attached on top of the middle box and leave to acclimatise for 2/3 days.

6. Start adding your kitchen waste into the top tier. This will attract the worms up from the layer below.
7. Harvest the compost from the lower box when the top box becomes full up. Remove the upper box, empty the compost out of the bottom one and a place this one on the top of the stack. Then simply start adding your waste to the empty box in the top tier.
8. Make sure you drain the lower box on a regular basis. This will prevent the wormery from becoming waterlogged. If the waste looks like it is becoming sludgy, add some shredded paper to absorb excess moisture.

Worms for wormeries

Tiger or Brandling (Red) worms are the best types to use in a wormery. There are also other types you can use such as Dendrobaena. Earthworms from your garden are not suitable because they require different living conditions. You will need around 100 to 500 worms to start with depending on the amount of waste you intend to add.



Where can I get hold of the worms:

- Fishing shops usually stock the Dendrobaena worm for fishing bait which can be used in wormeries. Sold by the pot or by weight.
- Mail order companies supply worms for wormeries:
Wiggly Wigglers Tel 01981 500391 wigglywigglers.co.uk
Original Organics Tel 01884 841515 originalorganics.co.uk
The Bin Company Tel 0845 602 3630 thebincompany.com



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We cannot recommend or endorse any company listed
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