



## *How to Build Your Own Redworm Bin*

---

Assembly time: approximately 30 minutes

Necessary tools and items:

1. 10-15 gallon (40-60 quart) opaque plastic storage tote -preferably shatter-resistant
  2. Drill and 1/4" Drill Bit
  3. Bedding Material
  4. Water
  5. Redworms
- 

### Selecting your Container...

Appropriate container selection is essential to the success of your new redworm home. We recommend shatter-resistant plastic storage totes. Rubbermaid Roughneck totes are an ideal example. These can be purchased at local hardware stores for under \$10.

Other materials that can be used are galvanized tub and/or wood. Galvanized tubs are more expensive, but they will last a very, very long time. Galvanized tubs will also be much heavier, which makes them more difficult to manage. Wood can be used, however due to the moist environment necessary for the redworms, it will eventually decay.

Size of your container is imperative to the success of your redworm home. Ideally, your bin should be able to hold at least 1 cubic foot. We recommend a storage tote that holds between 10-15 gallons (40-60 quarts). Ideal depth for this size is anywhere from 9-15". This size will comfortably accommodate 1 cubic foot, while still making it manageable to move.

Anything larger than the 15 gallon size becomes extremely heavy! Remember you will probably be moving this bin when you are removing the compost, adding food scraps, and etc. A more shallow bin makes it difficult to bury food scraps. The deeper you are able to bury food scraps, the better the chances are for avoiding problems such as fruit flies. (Fruit flies are harmless to the redworms; however they can be a nuisance to redworm owners)

Other items to avoid when selecting your container are: internal grooves and sharp corners. Grooves and sharp corners tend to become areas where things build-up and are more difficult to clean, remove compost, etc.

Also, please remember to get an opaque tote! Your redworms like a dark environment. If you get a clear or translucent tote, your redworms may try to escape their new beautiful home you're working so hard to create!

## How to Build Your Own Redworm Bin Continued...



### Step 1: Ventilation

The redworms need air! Using a 1/4" drill bit, drill approximately 18 holes in the top. Holes should be spaced approximately 3" apart.

*Note:* A shatter-resistant tote will make this much easier (a hard plastic tote can potentially shatter or crack while drilling your ventilation holes).

### Step 2: Bedding Material

The redworms need something to wiggle through and live in. Fill your newly drilled bin  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with any of the following: peat moss, shredded newspaper, straw, dried grass, or other similar material.



### Step 3: Moisten the Bedding Material

The redworms like a semi-moist environment. Just add a bit of water, depending on what type of bedding material, you'll have to adjust your water accordingly (newspaper needs a little bit more, peat moss needs a little bit less). Bedding should feel damp wet to the touch. The goal is to create a moist environment, not a flood.

### Step 4: Add the Redworms to their Home

Congratulations -You've got a Happy Redworm Home!

#### \*\*Important Maintenance Tip to Remember:

If your redworms are fed and kept damp, they won't try to escape from their new home.

*Please also download our Redworm Fact Sheet for more tips on keeping your new pets happy!*