

# Indoor method: **Vermicompost Tub**

**Size:** 40 cm wide x 61 cm long x 22 cm high

**Maximum capacity:** This depends on the size of the worm colony; red wigglers can eat their weight in food waste and bedding in a day. Kas added an average of 4.4 litres of food waste a week.

**Price:** \$5—15 for tub, \$10—25 for red wigglers

**Tester satisfaction:** high

**Features:** Large tub with lid. Holes cut in the lid for ventilation.

**What you can put in it:** Kitchen scraps (excluding meat, bones, dairy, and fats), shredded paper. Not meant for large amounts of yard waste, but small amounts of dry leaves can be used for bedding.

**“Yuck” factor:** Moderate. Requires dealing with large numbers of red wiggler worms, and can sometimes attract flies.

**Complexity to use:** Moderate-to-high. Some knowledge of bedding, caring for worms, and eliminating flies is necessary.

**Mobility:** The bin is easy to move.

**Available at:** Tubs available at many home stores. Saskatchewan worm suppliers listed at [goo.gl/LS4RT3](http://goo.gl/LS4RT3).



Tested by: **Kassandra**



Kas is an artistic young woman living with two roommates. She has access to an outdoor space, but still enjoys vermicomposting inside. She had been using a vermicompost bin for a year before our study, but sadly had her first squirm of worms die due to a treated wood product.

During the test there were actually two vermicompost tubs in use; one belonging to Kas and one to a roommate. This made flies slightly more difficult to control, but Kas did an excellent job with adding dry bedding and making sure scraps were totally buried.

Kas is a patient composter and uses a bit of forethought to harvest. At a certain point she stops adding food waste to one side of the bin. The worms finish processing this side and migrate to the other where the fresh food is, allowing her to scoop out the first side's worm castings without a fuss.

## **Results:**

**Testing period:** May 2014—May 2015

### **Inputs:**

- Began with bedding of shredded newspaper and soil
- 238 litres of organic waste
- Added 50-70 litres of newspaper and leaf bedding during the test period (exact volume unknown)
- Added 78 litres of water

### **Outputs:**

- 25 litres of finished compost

### **Recommendations:**

A vermicompost tub is a good, inexpensive way to process food waste indoors or outside during mild weather. It uses red wiggler worms to eat food scraps and turn them into high-nutrient worm castings.

Vermicomposting does require some knowledge of how to care for the worms and how to avoid breeding fruit flies or fungus gnats. Kas controlled fruit flies in her bin by carefully burying food scraps and adding more bedding to the top regularly. However even when taking care, it is common for a vermicompost bin to attract a small number of fungus gnats. For people who would be bothered by a small number of flies, we recommend looking at another method of indoor composting such as bokashi fermentation.

Unlike the Worm Factory, a vermicompost tub typically has no bottom drainage. This means that you have to be a bit more careful about moisture levels, and balance soggy food scraps with additions of dry bedding. The closed bottom also means that the bin does not leak and can be placed directly on carpet.