



VermiPods™ Encapsulated Earthworm Cocoons™

Encapsulated compost worm cocoons are an easy and convenient method of adding composting worms to your indoor or outdoor composter.

Most of your encapsulated compost worm cocoons will hatch in approximately 21 days. Hatch time depends on the temperature and humidity levels. The eggs inside the cocoons are in a state of diapause and some will continue to hatch months later. This is nature's way of ensuring their survival. The compost worms will mature in approximately 10 weeks. Each cocoon can hatch up to 10 worms. Do not add food to your worm composter until you are sure they have hatched.

Outdoor Hatching Instructions

You can plant the encapsulated compost worm cocoons right into your compost pile by poking a hole in the compost or soil approximately 3 to 4 inches deep, placing a cocoon into the hole and covering it back up. If you are not able to plant your compost worm cocoons right away, keep the encapsulated cocoons refrigerated until you are ready to plant them. However, viability will diminish with time.

Indoor Worm Composting Instructions

Container: Almost any container that keeps worms in and offers drainage and sufficient oxygen can be used for indoor worm composting. The basic worm box should be 1 foot high, 2 feet deep and 3 feet wide with drainage holes in the bottom. However, a variety of containers will do.

Bedding: If using an indoor compost bin that does not come with instructions about bedding, we recommend a bedding of shredded newspaper and garden soil. Tear regular newsprint only (no colored pages) into strips approximately 1½ inches wide. Add about a gallon of garden soil and mix with water. **(Please note: Never use water from a water softening system, as the salt can kill the worms.)** The bedding should be moistened to the "firm ball" stage—when squeezed, water droplets (but not streams) will fall and when released the ball will retain its shape.

Food: Compost worms will consume any kind of biodegradable matter except materials containing excess oil or chemicals. It is important not to add food until worms have hatched. It is also important not to overfeed. We recommend starting with a few small pieces of kitchen scraps to determine if feeding is taking place. Once you are certain that the worms have hatched and are eating, you can increase the amount of food offered. Suggested foods include fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells and any vegetable matter. To encourage decomposition, you may want to finely chop the materials before adding them to the bin. Avoid feeding meat, bones, salt, vinegar, cooking oils and dairy products as these items can cause a bad smell since worms do not process these foods.

Harvesting: Your worm manure should be ready to harvest in about two to three months. Push the finished contents over to one side of the bin. Add a batch of new bedding to the uncovered side. Bury garbage in the new side only and the worms will move to that side.

After several weeks, remove the old finished compost and add fresh bedding to the box until it is filled again. Repeat every several months.

Species: *Eisenia fetida* (Red Wiggler or Tiger Worm) with some *Eisenia andrei* (Red Tiger Worm).

#4339
50 Count

