

## Assembly Instructions

Note: To assemble, you need a flathead screwdriver, #2 Phillips screwdriver and Teflon tape.

1. Attach the water collection tray to the base tray (see figure 1). Place the 1/4" x 3/4" bolts at opposite sides, and use a screwdriver to apply pressure to start the screw. You do not need a nut.

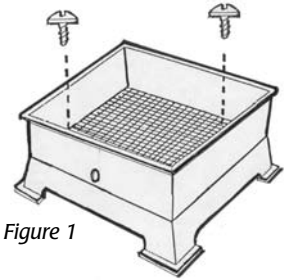


Figure 1

2. Place the liner on top of the water collection tray, lining up the drain holes (see figure 2). Insert the plastic valve through the collection tray and liner. Attach the plastic ring on the inside (see figure 3). If water leaks around the tap, you may need a small amount of Teflon tape for a tighter seal.

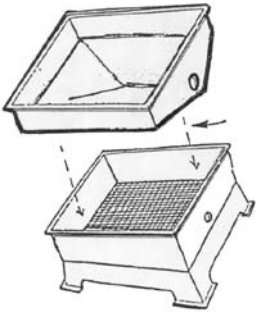


Figure 2

3. Use the 1/4" nut to attach the knob to the lid.

4. Stack the working trays on top of the base tray and place the lid on top (see figure 4).

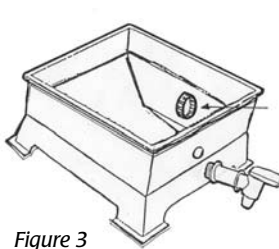


Figure 3

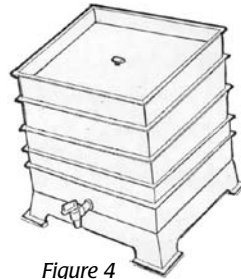


Figure 4

## How To Get Started

1. Sprinkle a small amount of vermiculite onto the water collection liner. Add first working tray and place cardboard in the bottom of the tray.

2. Build a bed for your worms by soaking the coconut coir brick in 1 gallon of water. Moisten the bag of shredded newspaper. Mix the coir fiber and

### Worm Tips

- Mix food scraps with an equal amount of shredded paper in a blender to help worms consume food faster.
- Occasionally sprinkle a bit of baking yeast in the top bin for vitamins your worms need.
- To force worms to migrate upward, place food in the upper trays only.
- If you don't see many worms, your system may be too dry for reproduction. Check the moisture level, and add water if necessary.

newspaper together with a handful of vermiculite then place on top of cardboard.

3. Spread one pound of worms and any bedding that comes with them on top of the coir mixture.

4. Gradually (no more than a 1/2 pound of food per day) add appropriate food from the food list below. For quick composting, chop food into pieces smaller than two inches. Each time food is added, bury food in bedding and cover with several pieces of damp newspaper. Stack additional trays and place lid on top.

5. Once the bedding in the first working tray touches the bottom of the second working tray, add fresh bedding and shredded newspaper to the second tray. Bury food in bedding and cover with damp newspaper as before.

### Worm Tips

- Occasionally shine a flashlight into your bin. Worms don't like light, so if they don't bury themselves when you shine light on them, they could be sick.
- Observe your worms' slime level. If your worms look too dry, check your bin's moisture.

## Feeding Your Worms

On average, feed one pound of redworms a half pound of food per day. If you notice a build-up of food, an unpleasant odor or slow composting in your Wormtopia, slow your feeding and add coconut coir, vermiculite, dry shredded paper or cardboard to improve airflow and balance the environment in your Wormtopia. See the Wormtopia lid for more feeding hints.

|            |                |                                       |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fruits     | Hair Clippings | Crushed Egg Shells                    |
| Vegetables | Pasta          | Coffee Filters and Grounds            |
| Tissues    | Tea Bags       | Bread Crusts (with no mayo or butter) |
|            |                | Shredded Paper                        |

**Warning:** Never put meat and dairy products, or pet waste into your Wormtopia because they can harbor harmful bacteria.

### Worm Tips

- Worms love light, fluffy bedding with good ventilation. Check the moisture level frequently to ensure proper aeration, healthy worm reproduction and rapid composting.
- Avoid a potential fruit fly infestation by adding food scraps to your bin immediately after each meal.

## How To Care For Your Worms

**Temperature** Redworms can tolerate temperatures from 40°F-80°F although they prefer temperatures between 55°F-70°F. In cold climates, bring your Wormtopia inside during the winter to avoid freezing. In hot climates, keep your Wormtopia wet and cool. A covered area, such as a garage, is a good location for your system, whatever the climate. Worms prefer the dark so keep the lid on your Wormtopia. This will encourage them to come near the surface to feed and prevent the bedding from becoming too dry.

**Bedding** Create a rich, fluffy bed of coir (shredded coconut husk) mixed with vermiculite, shredded paper or cardboard to encourage constant airflow and a healthy environment for your worms.

**Moisture Level** Your worms need a balanced moisture level. Check the bin's moisture by squeezing a handful of shredded paper or compost in your hand. If you see several drops of water or water between your fingers, the moisture level is probably satisfactory. If there's a stream of water when you squeeze, your system is too wet; if there's no water, however, your system is too dry. *To Add Moisture:* Drain your water collection tray and recycle it through the system. Add moist shredded paper or cardboard or pour a small amount of water through your system. *To Decrease Moisture:* Add dry shredded paper, cardboard or coir. This will encourage airflow and provide great structure when you add the vermicompost to your garden.

Enjoy your Wormtopia and the wonderful compost your worms will produce!



### Sunleaves Garden Products

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# Wormtopia

Composting Redworm Habitat  
"A Respectable Receptacle"  
Made From Recycled Plastic

*Congratulations on purchasing your new Sunleaves Wormtopia! You've invested in a healthy and fun way to recycle kitchen and daily waste by using redworms, part of nature's recycling team. Your redworms will eat vegetable, fruit, bread and paper scraps, producing rich compost for use in your garden and potted plants. Composting redworms will thrive in your Wormtopia as they digest garbage to give you vermicompost, one of nature's finest fertilizers.*

## How Your Wormtopia Works

Your Wormtopia is a multi-story worm bin that automatically separates food scraps from finished vermicompost. You'll start by putting redworms, bedding and food scraps into the bottom tray. When the lower tray fills, begin putting scraps in the next tray up. Once the worms finish the food in the bottom tray, they'll begin to migrate upward into the tray above. When they've left the bottom tray, you can empty the finished compost, replace it with new bedding and rotate it to the top. Keep replacing bedding and rotating trays so your worms will always have something to eat, and you'll have fresh compost. The drainage tray collects the liquid which drains through the bin, called "worm tea." This "tea" is a wonderful liquid fertilizer for your houseplants or garden; mix it with equal parts of water before using.

Since worms can fall into this drainage tray, put a small amount of shredded paper in the tray so they can migrate upward again. Once your Wormtopia is ready, you'll be able to relax as your redworms do the work.

## Assembly of the Wormtopia

Please make sure you have all the pieces of your Wormtopia. You should have:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 base tray with legs                                       | 1 plastic valve       |
| 1 water collection tray with a large drain hole on the side | 1 plastic valve ring  |
| 1 water collection liner                                    | 1 piece of cardboard  |
| 4 working trays with 4 small holes each                     | 1 1/4" nut (for knob) |
| 1 lid   | 1 coir brick          |
| 1 plastic knob (for lid) w/spacer nut                       | 2 1/4" x 3/4" bolts   |
| 1 bag of vermiculite  |                       |
| 1 bag of shredded newspaper                                 |                       |