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› Worm Factory 360 Composting System User Manual

## Worm Factory WF360 Black

# Worm Factory® 360 Composting System User Manual

Model: WF360 Black

Brand: Worm Factory

## INTRODUCTION

The Worm Factory® 360 is an efficient and odorless way to compost food waste at home using worms. This system transforms kitchen scraps and other organic materials into nutrient-rich compost and liquid fertilizer, perfect for gardens, houseplants, and lawns. This manual provides comprehensive instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Worm Factory® 360 to ensure optimal performance and a thriving worm colony.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Always handle worms and compost with care. Wash hands thoroughly after handling materials. Keep the unit in a stable location away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Do not ingest compost or leachate. Keep out of reach of small children and pets.

## PACKAGE CONTENTS

Your Worm Factory® 360 system includes the following components:

- Collection Base with Spigot

- 4 Stacking Trays
- Lid
- Worm Ladder
- Sprinkler Tray
- Thermometer
- Hand Rake/Cultivator
- Scraper
- Coco Coir Brick (for bedding)
- Shredded Paper (for bedding)
- Pumice
- Rock Dust
- Quick Start Guide



Image: All components of the Worm Factory 360 system, including the stacked trays, collection base, lid, and various starter materials like coco coir, shredded paper, and tools.

# Worm Factory® 360 Composting System

## RECYCLING FOOD WASTE AT HOME - 4 TRAYS

### Worm Factory 360 Parts Lists



## ORIGINAL MULTI-TRAY, UPWARD MIGRATION WORM COMPOSTER

Image: A detailed diagram illustrating each part of the Worm Factory 360, including the collection base, sprinkler tray, stacking trays, lid, worm ladder, and various accessories.

### SETUP

Follow these steps to assemble your Worm Factory® 360 and prepare it for your worms:

1. **Set the Collection Base:** Place the collection base on a flat, stable surface. Install the spigot securely.
2. **Install the Worm Ladder:** Place the worm ladder inside the collection base. This helps worms migrate back to the trays if they fall into the liquid collection area.
3. **Add an Empty Tray:** Place the first working tray on top of the collection base.
4. **Prepare Bedding:** Hydrate the coco coir brick according to instructions (typically by adding water until it expands and is moist). Mix the hydrated coir with the provided shredded paper. The bedding should be damp, like a wrung-out sponge.
5. **Add Bedding to First Tray:** Place a layer of prepared bedding into the first tray.
6. **Introduce Worms:** Gently add your composting worms (Red Wigglers are recommended) onto

the bedding. Allow them a few minutes to burrow down.

7. **Add Initial Food Scraps:** Place a small amount of appropriate food scraps (see Operating section) on top of the bedding.
8. **Add the Lid:** Place the lid on the top tray. Your vermicomposter is now ready. Additional trays will be added as needed when the lower trays become full.



Image: A visual guide demonstrating the four easy steps for assembling the Worm Factory 360: setting the collection base, installing the worm ladder, adding the first tray, and placing the lid.

## Placement Considerations

Keep the Worm Factory® 360 in a location where the temperature remains between 40°F and 80°F (4.4°C to 26.7°C) to ensure the comfort and survival of the worms. Avoid exposing the bin to extreme heat or cold. Ideal locations include a garage, basement, utility room, or shaded outdoor area.

## OPERATING YOUR COMPOSTER

### What to Feed Your Worms

Worms thrive on a balanced diet of 'greens' (nitrogen-rich) and 'browns' (carbon-rich). Always bury food scraps under a layer of bedding to prevent odors and pests.

- **Food Scraps:** Fruit and vegetable scraps (peels, cores, wilted produce), coffee grounds (with filters), tea bags, crushed eggshells.
- **Leaves & Hay:** Small amounts of dried leaves, grass clippings (in moderation), hay.
- **Hair & Feather:** Small amounts of human or pet hair, feathers.
- **Paper & Cardboard:** Shredded newspaper (black ink only), plain cardboard (torn into small pieces), paper towels (non-greasy).

## What to Avoid

Certain items can harm your worms or attract pests:

- **Meat and Dairy:** Including bones, fats, and oils. These can putrefy and attract pests.
- **Metals & Plastic:** Non-biodegradable materials.
- **Chemicals:** Pesticides, cleaning products, or chemically treated wood.
- **Oily/Greasy Foods:** Can create anaerobic conditions and odors.
- **Citrus and Onions:** In large quantities, these can make the bin too acidic.
- **Pet Waste:** Can contain pathogens harmful to humans.



Image: A clear visual representation of items suitable for composting (food scraps, leaves, hay, hair, feathers) and

items to avoid (meat, dairy, metals, plastic, chemicals).

## Feeding Frequency and Quantity

Start with small amounts of food and gradually increase as your worm population grows. Feed every 2-3 days, or when the previous food has been mostly consumed. Avoid overfeeding, which can lead to odors and anaerobic conditions.

## Moisture Management

Maintain consistent moisture levels. The bedding should feel like a damp sponge. If too dry, lightly mist with water. If too wet, add more shredded paper or dry carbon-rich materials.

## Harvesting Compost and Leachate

As worms consume food in the lower trays, they will migrate upwards to new food sources in higher trays. Once a lower tray is full of rich, dark compost (vermicompost) and most worms have moved up, you can harvest the finished compost. The collection base will accumulate 'worm tea' (leachate), a liquid fertilizer. Drain this liquid periodically from the spigot and dilute it with water (1:10 ratio) before using on plants.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: Learn More About the Worm Factory 360 Composter. This video provides an overview of the Worm Factory 360 system and its benefits for home composting.

## MAINTENANCE

- **Regular Checks:** Periodically check the moisture level and temperature of your bin. Use the included thermometer to monitor temperature.
- **Adding New Trays:** When a working tray is nearly full of processed material and worms are actively feeding at the top, add a new tray with fresh bedding and food on top. The worms will naturally migrate upwards.
- **Cleaning:** The Worm Factory® 360 requires minimal cleaning. After harvesting compost, you can rinse the empty tray if desired before reusing. Clean the spigot periodically to prevent clogs.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

| Problem   | Possible Cause                                                            | Solution                                                                                        |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Foul Odor | Too much food, wrong food (meat/dairy), too wet, lack of air circulation. | Reduce feeding, remove offensive food, add dry shredded paper/cardboard, gently aerate the bin. |

| Problem           | Possible Cause                                                                      | Solution                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fruit Flies/Pests | Exposed food, too much moisture.                                                    | Always bury food scraps under bedding. Add more dry bedding. Reduce moisture.                                                                                             |
| Worms Escaping    | Unfavorable conditions (too wet/dry, too hot/cold, too acidic), new bin adjustment. | Check moisture and temperature. Add crushed eggshells to balance pH. Ensure proper ventilation. Worms may explore initially; they will settle once conditions are stable. |
| Slow Composting   | Not enough worms, too cold, food pieces too large, insufficient moisture.           | Ensure adequate worm population. Maintain optimal temperature. Chop food into smaller pieces. Adjust moisture.                                                            |

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Material:** Plastic (HDPE)

**Color:** Black

**Product Dimensions:** 17.95"L x 17.95"W x 14.95"H

**Item Weight:** 11 Pounds

**Capacity:** 1 Liters (liquid collection)

**Trays:** 4 Trays (expandable)

**Model Number:** WF360 Black

## Capacity and Dimensions



Image: A visual representation of the Worm Factory 360, highlighting its dimensions (28" height, 18" width) and material (HDPE Plastic).

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and customer support, please refer to the product packaging or visit the official Worm Factory website. Contact details for Nature's Footprint Inc., the manufacturer, can typically be found there.