

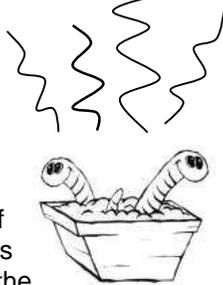
**HELLO**, and welcome to the New Year! We hope that you had a great vacation and enjoyed a GREEN Christmas. We're sure that your worms had a great holiday too. To ensure your worm bin is health keep an eye out for any problems. The Worm Lady is only a phone call away. To help you out with any worm bin problems, here are a few tips.

## Common Bin Problems

### Problem: ODOR

**Causes:** Determine which is the cause of the odour. Is it that: Bin is overload. Blocked drainage. Bin too acidic. Bin too wet. Meat, dairy, or oil products are in the bin. Food wastes are exposed.

**Solutions:** Lift contents of bin and reduce food input until original food is gone. Ensure all drainage holes are clear, drill more if necessary. Stop adding citrus, add calcium carbonate or crushed egg shells to balance pH level. Add shredded paper to help soak up excess moisture and leave lid off during the day. Keep meats, oils and dairy products out. Ensure the food is covered with bedding when it's added.



### Problem: MAGGOTS IN BIN.

**Cause:** Meat, Dairy or other animal product in bin.

**Solution:** Keep animal products out of the bin. Cover bedding with cardboard or plastic.

### Problem: WORMS CRAWLING UP SIDE OF BIN.



**Cause:** The bedding is too wet, pH is off or bedding is now all castings. There may be a thunderstorm coming too.

**Solution:** Do not add water, add shredded paper to top of bin or it's time to harvest and start a new bin.

## Worm Bin Guidelines

Remember that your worms like a specific environment, just like you do.

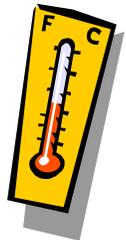
### Oxygen

Worms are aerobic digesters, that means that they need air, but they don't have noses like us. Worms absorb the oxygen through their skin. That's why their skin has to be moist and the bedding has to be fluffed. When you fluff their bedding, you are making sure their environment has enough oxygen.



### Temperature

Worms like room temperature, just like you! However, they can tolerate a range of temperatures, from 4 - 29° Celsius. If the worms freeze or overheat, they will die. To prevent that, keep them away from heat sources or open windows.



### pH

The ideal pH for a worm is neutral, about 6.8 - 7.2, like us. You can check the worm's environmental pH with litmus paper. If it is too high (alkaline), the paper will go red, if it's too low (acidic), it will go blue. If it's acidic, add crushed egg shells; if it's too alkaline, add 3parts water: 1 part vinegar.



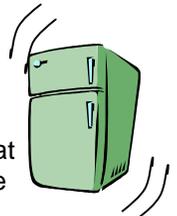
### Light

Worms may not have eyes, but they are very sensitive to the light. They absorb it through their skin. Worms like a dark environment, that's why you want to keep the lid on your bin.



### Vibration

Worms hate vibrations! They don't have ears, so they depend on vibrations from sounds / animals / bugs to "see" and move about. Keep the bins away from anything that vibrates, like a fridge, and NEVER shake the bin.



Send any questions, art or inquiries to:

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