

**Hello,** to all the worm sitters. We hope that everything is going well and that you are enjoying yourselves as much as the worms are. You might have noticed by now that there isn't very much bedding left and there is a lot of brown earthy soil, the castings. Push all the castings, worms and food to one side of the bin and fill the empty side with fresh bedding, food and more sand. This will keep the worms busy and comfy. Remember our worms are vegetarians, that means no meats, dairy or oils.

For more information visit [www.wormwrangler.com/article10.html](http://www.wormwrangler.com/article10.html).

## Who? What? When? WHY?

### Why Do Redworms C-R-A-W-L out??

#### C - Change of Habitat

If worms are raised in a particular bedding then are transferred to something else, they may try to escape. To prevent this, keep them in a place where you can leave a light on. Since they are sensitive to light, they'll stay in the bin to avoid the light. Also, have the pH checked, the bedding may be too acidic or basic. An ideal pH is 6.8.

#### R - Rain

Just before and during a thunderstorm or any low-pressure system, it's natural to see the worms crawl up and around the lid of a plastic worm bin. Worms are great natural barometers.

#### A - Air

If worms aren't getting enough air, they will try to get away. Ensure the air holes are not blocked. Be sure to aerate / fluff the bin once a week.

#### W - Water, too little or too much

If your bin is too wet, there won't be enough air for the worms. If too wet add dry shredded paper. Remember to keep it moist like a wrung out sponge.

#### L - Lack of food

Remember to feed your worms regularly. But DO NOT OVERFEED them either. Keep food covered in the bin.



### Who Eats Worms?

In their natural habitat, worms have several natural predators. The most common known to you would probably be the bird. Other insects like centipedes also eat the worms. And of course, when we put them on a hook to catch a fish, we are killing them to feed them to the fish. So, in ways, we are also a worm's predator along with that fish.

Worms are more powerful than the African elephant and more important to the economy than the cow.

- Charles Darwin

### Why Use Red Wigglers?

Red Wigglers are the best worms to use for vermicomposting because they tolerate the widest range of environmental conditions and fluctuations and they thrive on organic matter. They are also common to most landmass, so we don't need to worry that we are introducing a harmful alien species.

We also use red wigglers because they can live as long as four years in a well cared for vermicomposter. In their natural habitat, they only live about a year because of natural predators.

The scientific, Latin name for red wigglers is *Eisenia fetida*.

### What Happens When a Worm Dies?

Red Wiggler worms that die in the vermicomposter are eaten by the micro organisms that share the bin with them. This occurs so rapidly that you wouldn't even notice the death of a worm. In the natural world, you wouldn't normally notice the death of a worm because they are eaten by predators, their main way of dying. Sometimes, if you see a dead worm, it's because it's skin has dried out, they breathe through their skin.

Send any questions, art or inquiries to:

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