

Make your own wormery

Watch worms at work.

What you need

- Fresh soil
- Sand and small stones or gravel
- A large plastic bottle with the neck cut off
- A trowel or large spoon
- Worms
- Fruit and vegetable peels or cores
- A sheet of newspaper



WARNING!
Wash your hands properly after handling worms and soil.

How does it work?

Wormeries are a great way to see how worms behave and how they affect the environment around them. Earthworms love to eat rotting plant matter, which they find on the surface. As they drag this food down into the soil, they leave casts, or tiny

piles of soil, above ground. After two weeks, you'll see these tunnels and casts, which demonstrate how important earthworms are when it comes to cleaning up dead plants out in the wild. Depending on where you live and where you look for

the worms, you will end up with any of the 27 earthworm species found in the UK. Each species has its own behaviour patterns, so don't be surprised if your wormery ends up looking quite different from someone else's.



1 Mix some soil with sand and stones and pour it into the base of the bottle. Then add alternating layers of soil and sand until the bottle is almost full. Water so the soil is moist.



2 Head outdoors to find a few worms. Dig into soil with a spoon or trowel, and pull them gently from the dirt. Add them to your wormery and watch them burrow down.



3 Place peelings on top of the soil. You can cover the bottle with a sheet of newspaper with holes made in it. Leave your wormery somewhere dark but not too cold.



4 Check the bottle every few days. Take note of any changes, keep the soil moist and add more food if needed. After two weeks, release your worms back into the wild.

If you've enjoyed these activities, share the fun with other readers. Send your photos and videos to scienceandnature@dennis.co.uk
Look out for more fun activities and experiments in the next issue.