



Worm Farms and Compost Bins

Building a sustainable future

Yarra residents can further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the amount of waste that goes to landfill by using worm farms and compost bins.

More than half of household waste is made up of food and garden scraps. Using a worm farm or compost bin can help the environment by significantly reducing the amount of waste that is thrown away.

Council is selling worm farms and compost bins at a reduced price and can deliver them to residents and local businesses for \$10.

Worm farms

Worm farming is when you feed fruit and vegetable scraps to special earthworms called compost worms. These worms eat half of their body weight in one day and can double in population every two to three months.

The worms produce castings that make great fertiliser for gardens and indoor plants.

Keeping a worm farm is simple and ideal for people living in flats or in houses with small backyards.

All you need to do is add your fruit and vegetable scraps each week. Add a small amount of food in the first week and increase this amount gradually over six months. Make sure you chop up the food first and include a variety of materials.

It is best to feed your worms weekly. If uneaten food remains in the farm, you will know you have overfed the worms. Add water every few days or when necessary to prevent the worm farm from drying out.

Worms will eat almost any vegetable and fruit scraps. They will also eat coffee grindings, paper, leaves and even damp cardboard; just remember not to add onions or too much acidic food such as oranges or mandarins. Also avoid meat and materials contaminated with toxic chemicals such as sawdust from treated wood.

Many nurseries and hardware stores sell compost worms and other materials needed to run a successful worm farm.

For more information about worm farms, go to Sustainability Victoria's website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au.



Dimensions

L 570mm X W 395mm X H 640mm

Cost

You can purchase a worm farm from Council at the reduced price of **\$87.50**.

The worm farm comes unassembled and does not include worms.

Council can also deliver your worm farm to you for a fee of \$10.00 (delivery is free for concession card holders).


For more information contact Council on **9205 5555** or visit our website at: www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment.

See reverse side for **compost bins** ▶▶

Website: www.yarracity.vic.gov.au

Telephone: **9205 5555**



 Cashier's Docket City Development Division – Environmental Services Branch					
Fee Type	Unit Cost	ProClaim Charge Code	Subject to GST (Y/N)	Account Code	Total Fee Payable (inc GST)
Compost Bin	\$42.50	physCompost	YES	CONT1884	\$
Worm Farm	\$87.50		YES	CONT1884	\$
Delivery Fee	\$10.00		YES	CONT1884	\$
TOTAL COST					\$

Received from:

Date: Receipt No.:



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Compost

Composting is when household food scraps and garden waste is broken down to create a dark soil. This soil is nutrient-rich and provides an excellent fertiliser for your garden.

To create healthy compost:

- choose a shady spot in your garden
- ensure it has enough air by turning the pile regularly, breaking up clumps of food waste or adding twigs and newspapers to increase air spaces
- keep it moist, but not wet
- ensure you feed it the right food

Food

Almost anything organic can be composted. This includes fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells, tea leaves and bags, ground coffee, grass clippings, garden prunings, dead flowers and old potting mix, animal and human hair, vacuum cleaner dust and newspapers.

Healthy compost needs a balanced diet of nitrogen and carbon. Waste high in nitrogen includes food scraps and grass clippings and waste high in carbon includes paper, sawdust, straw and leaves.

There are a few things that can make your compost sick. These include animal manures, metals, plastics, glass and magazines. Meat and dairy products are also not recommended as they don't break down easily, can rot and make your compost smell. This will attract pests.

Building your compost

There are a number of methods for building your compost and each will take a different amount of time:

Layering: add 10cm layers of vegetable and fruit scraps, grass clippings, leaves and shredded newspaper, covering each layer with a thin layer of soil and a small amount of fertiliser. Your compost will be ready in three to six months, but will take less time if it is turned regularly.

All together: add saved kitchen and garden waste to your compost at once and turn several times a week. This generates a lot of heat, making your compost ready in three to six weeks.

Compost Worms: Layer your compost as usual but add compost worms. The worms will turn the heap for you making your compost ready in approximately three months. Many nurseries and hardware stores sell compost worms.

You will know your compost is ready to use when it is dark and crumbly. Always remember to wear gloves when handling the compost and adding the soil to your garden.

For more information about compost, go to Sustainability Victoria's website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au.



Dimensions

L 500mm X W 500mm X H 800mm

Cost

You can purchase a compost bin from Council at the reduced price of **\$42.50**.

Council can also deliver your compost bin to you for a fee of \$10.00 (delivery is free for concession card holders).

Please note that the compost bin comes unassembled.

For more information contact Council on **9205 5555** or visit our website at: www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment.

Ordering and paying for your worm farm or compost bin

You will need to order and pay for your worm farm or compost bin before picking it up or before it is delivered to you. This can be done at the Richmond Town Hall, 333 Bridge Road, or at the Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street Abbotsford.

Make sure you bring with you proof of residency, such as a driver's licence or a utilities bill.

Pick up or delivery

Delivery of worm farms and compost bins takes place on Fridays. If you are not home on Fridays, you will need to provide Council with details of where best to leave your new worm farm or compost bin.

Alternatively you can pick up your worm farm or compost bin at Council's Collingwood Depot, corner of Roseneath and Gray Street Clifton Hill, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.30pm. You will need to bring with you your receipt of payment.



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