Worm Factory® Standard Parts

1 Collection Tray
1 Holding Tray
1 Base
3 to 5 Stacking Trays (Depending on your order)
Quick Tips Lid
1 Knob, 2 Steel Bolts, 3 Steel Nuts, 1 Lever Tap Spigot and White Spigot Nut

Manual
DVD
Coir
Shredded Paper
Pumice
Scraper

Assembling Your Worm Factory®

1. Small parts are packed between the trays. Separate the stacking trays and identify the other parts. You may have 3 to 5 trays depending on which system you purchased.

2. Place the holding tray over the base tray and align the grids. Locate the stainless steel bolts and place in opposite corners a few squares from the edge. Twist bolts by hand through aligned grids and secure with nuts.

3. Place the collection tray into the holding tray and align the spigot holes.

4. Locate the spigot and the large white plastic nut. Insert the spigot through the holding tray and collection tray. Thread the plastic nut on the spigot inside the collection tray.

5. To assemble the lid, place the knob through the hole in the center of the lid. Screw the nut on the bottom of the lid to secure.

6. Place one stacking tray in the collection tray as shown, and set the remaining trays aside. As you begin to use your vermicomposter, the remaining trays will be added one by one.
Preparing Bedding

Included with your Worm Factory:

**Coir**
Coir is ground coconut fiber. It is the most desirable bedding material because it retains moisture and improves the quality of the worm castings that go into your garden.

**Pumice**
Pumice is a lightweight, porous, volcanic rock which provides excellent aeration and drainage for your vermicomposter.

**Shredded Paper**
Shredded paper, cardboard, newsprint, egg cartons and other types of paper provide an excellent source of carbon, increase aeration, and are an easy source of food for your worms.

Prepare your bedding before your worms arrive. This bedding material is provided to make sure your worms get off to a good start. For more details about the bedding process, read page 14.

1. Place the end of the brick of coir in a bowl. Pour 1 cup of water over the brick and let it soak until it begins to break apart. Crumble off the loosened coir equal to half the brick. Add more water if needed. Coir should be moist but NOT wet. Set aside the unused ½ brick of coir to use later.

2. Mix together the moistened coir, ½ pumice and ½ shredded Paper that came with your Worm Factory.

3. Use this mixture in the starting tray. Store the unused Coir, pumice and shredded paper to use later when adding your second tray.

4. Add one or two cupfuls of garden soil or compost to the bedding mixture. This beneficial material contains organic organisms that will inoculate your worm composter with the beneficial microbes worms depend on to help them digest their food.

**NOTE:** Coir and pumice make excellent bedding material, however, they are not required.

Next: Starting your 1st tray
Starting Your First Feeding Tray

1. Cover the bottom of the first starting tray with one or two sheets of dry newsprint. You’ll only do this on your very first tray!

2. Add the moist bedding mixture, spreading it evenly on top of the dry newspaper. Add 2 or 3 cups of food in one corner of the tray.
   
   *For food suggestions, see page 12 & 13.*

3. Select 5-10 full pages of newspaper (no slick color paper), fold the paper so it will fit into the feeding tray. Wet the paper until it is damp but not dripping. You have just created a moist newspaper cover.

4. Place the moist newspaper cover on top of the bedding and food in the starting tray and wait for your worms to arrive.

5. When the worms arrive remove the moist newspaper cover. Add the worms, including all of the bedding included with the worms, on top of the moist bedding. Replace the moist newspaper cover. Read more about adding worms on page 6.

6. Place the lid on the worm composter. It is best to not disturb the worms for the first two or three days while they adjust to their new environment. Your worms will want to explore their new home. Leave a light on for the first 2 or 3 days. This will discourage the worms from exploring outside the composter.

7. Leave the worms alone for two or three days then open the lid and peek in. Lift the moist newspaper cover and look around in your bin. Are the worms actively moving around in their food? If so, GOOD! If not, leave the worms alone, then check them again in 2 or 3 days. Once you see the worms actively feeding, you can start adding more food.

To provide the worms with an adequate food supply, add enough food over the next 4-6 weeks to fill the feeding tray. When the feeding tray is filled to within an inch of the top of the tray, it is time to add another tray.

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**NOTE:** From now on, the starting tray will be referred to as the “feeding tray”. This tray will always be on top and is shown in the illustration by the color green.