

Worm Bin Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Causes	Solutions
Bin smells bad	Over feeding Food scraps exposed Bin too wet Not enough air	Stop feeding for 2 weeks Cover with 3 inches of bedding Mix in dry bedding; leave lid off with strong light overhead Fluff bedding; drill holes in bin
Bin attracts flies	Food scraps exposed Too much food	Bury food completely Add food after most eaten; put excess in compost bin
Worms are dying	Bin too wet Bin too dry Extreme temperatures Not enough air Not enough food	Mix in dry bedding; leave lid off Thoroughly dampen bedding Move bin where temp. between 55 and 77°F Fluff bedding; drill holes in bin Add more bedding and food scraps
Worms crawling away	Bin conditions not right	See solutions above Leave lid off with light shining into bin (worms will burrow back into bedding)
Bedding drying out	Too much ventilation	Dampen bedding with spritzer; keep lid on
Water collecting in bottom	Poor ventilation Feeding too much watery scraps	Mix in dry bedding; leave lid off with strong light overhead Cut back on coffee grounds and food scraps with high water content

Prepared by Rhonda Sherman, Extension Solid Waste Specialist, Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695

Website: <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/people/faculty/sherman>

Email: rhonda_sherman@ncsu.edu Phone 919.515.6770