

**Does rotting food make you squirmy?**

**Give it to a little wormy!**

When uneaten food ends up in the landfill, all of its valuable nutrients go to waste. You can save these nutrients by composting your food in a compost bin at your home. This simple tool turns food into rich soil that you can use in your garden.



**Create your own compost bin with these simple instructions, and be sure you have the help and permission of an adult when using tools.**

1

All you need is a five gallon bucket with a lid, or similar container. Be sure that the container you choose is made of a tough, waterproof material like plastic. An empty cat litter bucket works great.



2

Drill several 1 inch holes in the bottom of the bucket. These holes will let earthworms reach the compost and allow liquids to drain out.



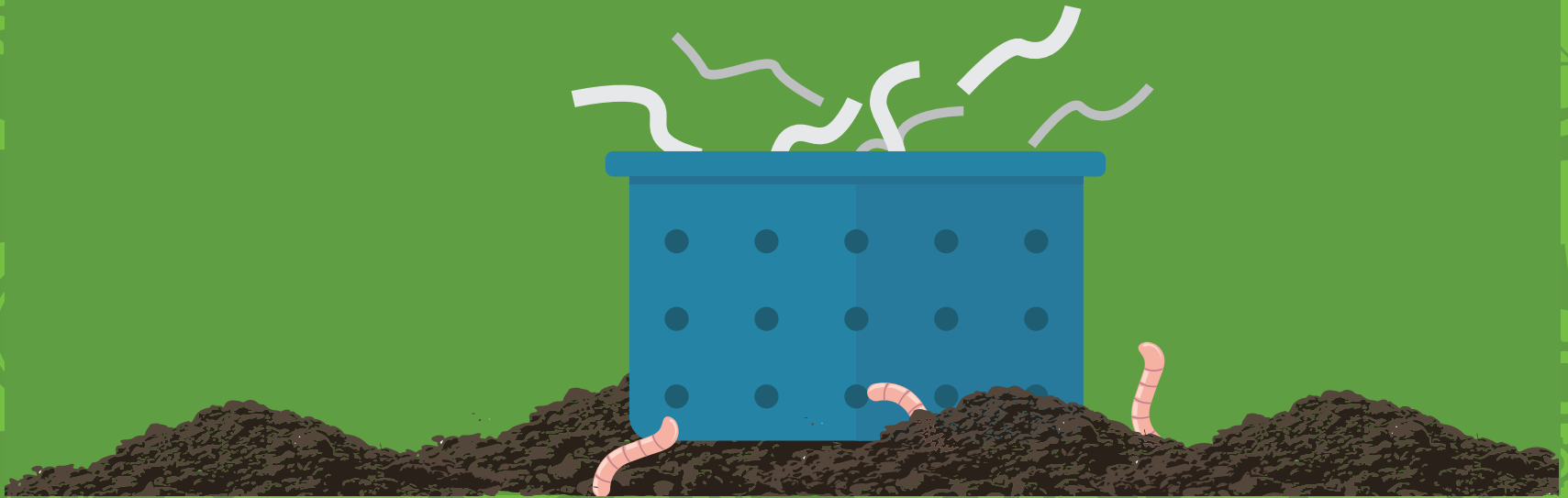
3

Drill 15 to 20 1/4 inch holes in the sides of the bucket. These holes allow air to reach the compost so the organisms that break it down can breathe.



4

Place the bucket in the shade and make sure the bucket sits directly on the ground. Worms won't be able to find your compost bin if it's sitting on a hard surface like pavement. Start with a couple handfuls of moistened, shredded paper. This will attract worms. You may need to add more shredded paper from time to time, especially when getting started.



5

Add your food scraps every day, and watch as your food naturally decomposes to become soil. Worms and other compost critter prefer small bites. You can help them break down your food faster by breaking or chopping food into small pieces. Stir or mix your compost every week or two. It's also important to keep your compost moist. Sprinkle with water every time you stir so that the compost doesn't dry out.



6

After 4-8 weeks, you'll have dark, rich soil to put on your garden and watch your new food grow!



## How to feed your worms (and other compost critters)

compost critters..



**love** (add everyday)

Fruit and vegetable scraps—  
Even the parts you don't like to eat!



Eggshells

Coffee grounds and tea leaves



Paper products (napkins, coffee  
filters, and paper towels)



Breads, cereals, grains



**like** (add only rarely)

Meats, cheese, or milk



Orange peels



Yard waste (like leaves or grass)



**hate** (never add  
to compost)



Plastic, Styrofoam, Metal

Diapers



Animal waste  
(like dog or cat poop)