

Getting Started with the Worm HangOut

Waikiki Worm Company was introduced to this innovative worm system several years ago and it quickly became our top recommendation for home vermicomposting. It's perfect for households who generate 5-10 pounds of worm food (fruits, veggies, grains) per week. It is technically dubbed the **Worm Inn**, but one happy customer reported, "My worms just love hanging out in this bin!" and the Worm HangOut name stuck.

Purchase the Worm Inn online from [The Worm Dude](#).

Hang your HangOut

Pick a cool, shady spot, indoors or out. You can suspend your Worm HangOut from a tree, from the rafters, or from any support you envision. Build a Worms on Wheels stand! Be creative, or simply go with the stand below.



The inexpensive PVC **No-Stoop Stand** pictured here is 39" high with a footprint of 21" square. A stand kit with all the corner joints is available from The Worm Dude.

Assemble with eight corner joints, four pieces of 36" and eight pieces of 18" 3/4-inch PVC pipe.

Tap pieces into the corner joints with a hammer to seat them completely. Use nylon Zip-Ties to attach the loops to each corner.

Catch the drips

Whatever suspension apparatus you choose, use a bucket, pan, or decorative container beneath the HangOut to collect the nutrient-rich liquid – called *leachate* – that drips from the bed. You can use this liquid as a mild fertilizer on landscape, lawn, and potted plants.

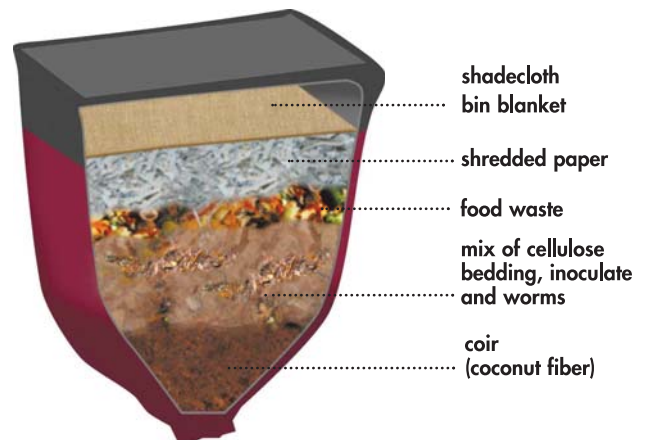
It's a good idea to drain the bucket daily to check for the occasional wayward worm. Worms will always sink to the bottom. Return any wash-outs to their bed.

Set up the system

When your HangOut is securely suspended, prepare bedding and add worms, food, and cover.

- 1 Shredded coconut fiber (coir) makes an excellent temporary base bedding. You will use it only once when you start the system. Place several handfuls in the very bottom of the HangOut.
- 2 Add a 8" to 10" layer of fluffy cellulose bedding such as shredded newspaper or shredded office paper, soaked cardboard bits, fiber egg cartons, etc.
- 3 Add one pound of worms and the old bedding that they came packed in (inoculate). Gently mix with the fluffy fresh bedding.
- 4 Add a 1" to 3" layer of food waste.
- 5 Add another thick layer of fluffy shredded paper. The food should be completely covered. Top the layer of shredded paper with a 4-ply piece of medium shadecloth. You will be able to water right through the shadecloth.
- 6 Drench with water until it runs out the bottom.

Your initial set-up should look like this:



TIP: Do not skimp on bedding! Plenty of cellulose material holds moisture, creates air pockets and provides comfortable living and reproductive habitat for the worms and other decomposer organisms. The fibrous material adds structure and bulk to the goopy decaying food that will result in rich, crumbly vermicast.