



King County Green Schools Program

How to Care for your Worm Bin over the Summer

As the end of the school year fast approaches, you may be wondering what to do with your worm bin over the summer. Follow these **four easy steps** to ensure that your worms have a safe home and are ready for a new group of students in the fall.

1. Harvest the worm bin.

Some of you may have started your worm bin in the fall or early winter. If so, you are probably ready to harvest your bin. You will notice a layer of dark-brown castings that look like soil. The worm castings from your bin make excellent garden compost!

For harvesting information, check out:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/elementaryschool/guides.asp> - and look for the “Composting: Worm Recycling” guide.

Once harvesting is complete, you will need to find a home for your worms over the summer. (See step 2.)

2. Find a home for your worms over the summer.

If you started your bin in April or May and are not ready to harvest, you will still need to find a home for your worms over the summer. Consider having a responsible student take them home, or take them home yourself.

Worms are easy to care for, but remember to keep the worms in a cool place out of direct sunlight. Basements and garages (if they are cool) can work well.

3. Once or twice per week, feed worms vegetable and grain food scraps (no meat, dairy or oily foods).
4. A King County Green Team specialist would be happy to visit your new group of students in the fall to teach them about worms and worm bins. Visit:
- <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/elementaryschool/greenteams.asp> for elementary teachers
 - <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/secondaryschool/gtworkshops.asp> for secondary teachers