



Harvesting Vermicompost

After about 6 weeks, you will begin to see worm castings. This is a soil-like material that has moved through the worms' digestive tracts. **In 3-4 months, it will be time to harvest the castings.** There will be partially decomposed bedding and food scraps mixed in with the worms and castings. This mixture is called **vermicompost**. You may harvest this by:

- **METHOD 1:**

Only place food scraps on one side of your worms bin for several weeks. Most of the worms will migrate to that side of the bin. Then, you can remove the vermicompost from the other side of the bin and replace it with fresh bedding (but not food). Repeat this process on the other side of the bin. After both sides are harvested, you can begin adding food scraps to both sides of the bin again.

- **METHOD 2:**

Make a pyramid (or a few pyramids) with the castings in the worm bin. Leave this pyramid uncovered and exposed to a strong light (not sun light). Place a food source on the opposite side of the

worm bin. The worms will migrate away from the light and toward the food source. Take a small amount of the castings at a time, allowing light to hit the remains of the pyramid.

- **METHOD 3:**

Empty the contents of your worm bin onto a plastic sheet or used shower curtain, where there is a strong light source (other than the sun). Wait 25-30 minutes, and then scrape off the top layer of vermicompost. Repeat every 20 minutes or so. After several scrapings, you will find worms in clusters; just gently pick them up and return them to the bin in fresh bedding.

***Remember to be on the lookout for worm eggs – gently place them back into the fresh bedding.**