



Troubleshooting

Problem:

- The most common problem is unpleasant odors.

Solution:

- Give the worms a chance to catch up and break down the food that is still there from the previous feeding.
- Make sure the food is covered by at least an inch of bedding.
- Gently stir up the entire contents to allow more air in.
- Leave the lid askew to allow more air in.
- Check the drainage holes to make sure they are not blocked, and drill more holes if necessary. Worms will drown if their surroundings become *too* wet.

Problem:

- Worms have been known to attempt to crawl out of the bedding and onto the sides of the bin and lid if conditions are wrong for them. If the moisture and air levels seem alright, the bedding may be too acidic. This can happen if you add a lot of citrus peels and other acidic foods.

Solution:

- Add a little lime and/or crushed egg shells to the bedding.
- Reduce the amount of acidic wastes being added to the bin.

- **Problem:**
- Fruit flies can be an occasional nuisance.

Solution:

- Be sure you are burying the food waste and not overloading the bin with too much food.
- Reduce the amount of banana and orange peels you add to the bin, because these peels may be home to fruit fly eggs.
- Keep a plastic sheet or piece of old carpet on the surface of the compost in the bin.
- A few friendly spiders nearby will help control fly problems.
- If flies are still persistent, move the bin to a location where flies will not be bothersome.