

# The Original **Wormery**®

## Full Instructions

### Incorporating improved drainage system

We advise you to read these instructions fully and keep this for future reference.

Congratulations on purchasing the acclaimed and innovative Original Wormery. You have assured yourself of excellent liquid feed and quantities of rich organic compost from your kitchen waste. The Original Wormery is a high quality, specially designed worm compost bin which will not only give you many years of excellent service but involves a clean, fascinating and totally environmentally friendly process. With only a small amount of care and attention success will be achieved time after time.

### An important note about your Worms

Please note the worms are native species of compost worms called tiger worms, red worms or brandlings (latin names *Eisenia andrei*, *Eisenia foetida* and *Dendrobaena Venera*) not common earthworms (*Lumbricus terrestris*). **THE WORMS SHOULD ARRIVE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND BE CLEARLY RECOGNISABLE AS SMALL WRIGGLY WORMS. IF NOT PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.** They are particularly vulnerable to temperature extremes whilst they remain in the small bag. So establish your Original Wormery as soon as possible after receipt.

### Locating your Original Wormery

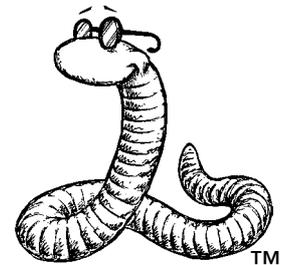
As your Wormery should be odour-free, you can keep it wherever is most convenient, indoors or outside. However, worms do not thrive in extremes of temperature particularly when getting started so avoid sites in the full sun and remember to keep it in a frost-free position over winter.

### What's in your Wormery

Inside your Original Wormery you will find the following items:

- Full instructions and Handy Information Booklet
- Internal separating platform (formed plastic tray with holes)
- 8 black plastic rectangles which interlock to make 4 legs
- Tap with washer and nut
- Colony of special compost worms (in protective packaging)/or a worm order card\*
- Worm bedding compost to start the process (dark earth like)
- Lime Mix or crushed egg shells (gravel like and gritty)

\*If you have a worm order card, simply complete and post it and the worms will be with you in a few days.



### Customer Services

We are committed to providing quality products that are good value and work well.

We have a policy of continual product development and improvement. If you experience any problems or have any queries or comments concerning your Wormery, please write to Original Organics, Customer Services Department, Unit 9, Langlands Business Park, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3DA or telephone (01884) 841515. We are always pleased to hear from our customers and will do our utmost to assist. Don't forget to read the Handy Information Booklet which will answer most of your immediate queries.

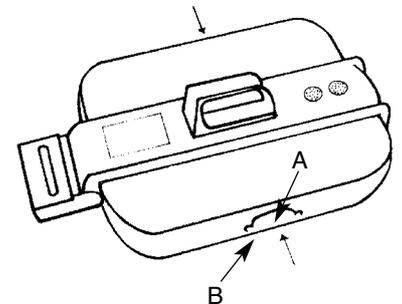
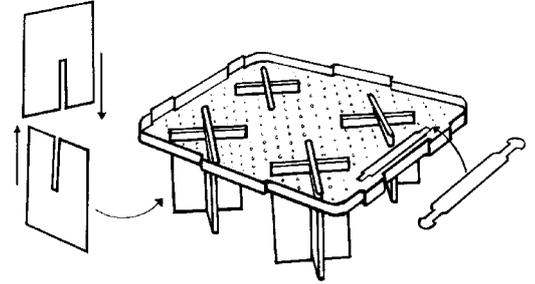
**Quality products for discerning gardeners**

## Lime Mix

The lime mix is used to prevent the environment in the Wormery becoming too acidic so keep it in a convenient dry place. Once the Wormery is established add a small handful of the lime mix every 4 weeks or so. Ground lime, Dolomite or crushed egg shells will do the job just as well but not ordinary garden lime which could harm the worms. The presence of tiny cotton thread-like white worms is an indicator of acidic conditions and an extra handful of calcified seaweed mixed well in with some dry shredded newspaper should restore the balance.

## Putting your Wormery together

1. Empty the Wormery of all its contents.
2. Assemble the tap - locate in the hole and hand tighten firmly with the washer on the outside and nut on the inside.
3. Take two of the eight black plastic rectangles and slot them together to form a leg (see diagram). Repeat this to form 4 legs. Insert these legs into the slots on the underside of the platform.
5. Insert the handle (see diagram) into the two rectangular holes in the separating platform. (This is to facilitate the easy extraction of the platform after emptying the compost).
6. Insert the separating platform 'feet' down (see diagram).
7. Place a single piece of newspaper (approx. 8" square) on the centre of the separating platform.
8. Empty the bedding compost onto the newspaper in a small pile - this bedding compost may well have small worm eggs in it to help ensure a quick start. You may add further bedding if you wish to speed up the start of the process. This is particularly helpful if you are establishing your Wormery in the cold winter period. We suggest some more slightly dampened shredded newspaper and a few handfuls of lightly dampened coir or peat free compost, leafmould or some well rotted, sterile compost.
9. Carefully empty the worms into the middle of the bedding and add a thin layer (three or four handfuls) of kitchen waste. Leave the lid open for 10 minutes or so and light (natural or artificial) will encourage the worms to dig into the bedding and settle into their new home.
10. Close the lid and engage the green clasp by firmly pressing it in. In the early days it is also advisable to use the additional clips formed by precision cuts in the front and back lips of the lid. This is particularly helpful during the first 2 to 6m weeks of operation whilst the worms establish themselves in their new environment. Thereafter, it should not normally be necessary to use them as the lid will have fully settled to conform to the shape of the bin. These lid clips are formed by a precision cut in the lip of the lid (no parts to fall off or lose) and are operated by a simple push or pull action.  
To operate, gently push down and inwards at point A (see diagram) until the side clips attach to the underside of the rim of the bin. To release the clips, gently pull up and outwards at point B (see diagram). You're now in business.



Always securely close the lid ensuring that the green clasp clips on positively.

## Early Days

Don't add further food for a week. The worms take a little while to settle in but will soon speed up their food consumption and recycling processes. Apart from in very cold weather, the worms should be reasonably active by now and will have spread throughout the bedding and 'food'. For the next two weeks simply add 3 or 4 handfuls of kitchen waste each week. At the end of this period it is ready for normal operation - simply add kitchen waste as it becomes available. Ideally, food should be added each day (little and often is the best), although success is often also achieved by saving your kitchen scraps in a bin and adding them every 3 or 4 days. It would be helpful to chop up larger fibrous or woody material such as cauliflower and cabbage stalks. Occasionally mix the fresh waste in with the 'old' contents to ensure the worms spread through the surface layers.

As their digestive and recycling action increases, the worms can cope with more and more waste matter. So from about 3 weeks onwards, the Wormery should be established and capable of dealing with most of your kitchen waste (typically the output of a family of 4).

