



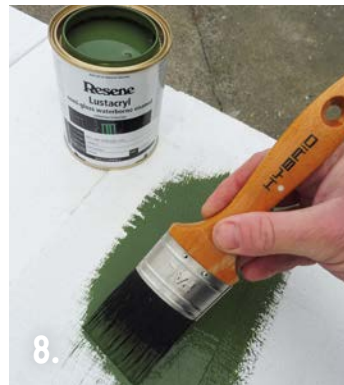
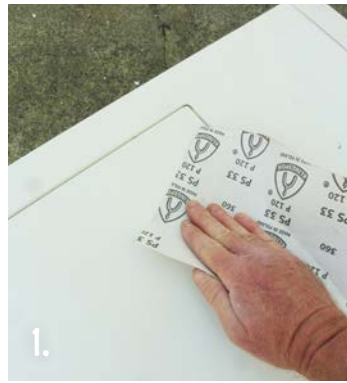
WORM FARM

Go green and upcycle an old metal laundry tub into an upmarket worm farm.

WORDS & PHOTOS MARK RAYNER

YOU WILL NEED:

- 25mm exterior screws
- 40mm exterior screws
- Bottle or jar
- Clean cloth
- Compost mixed with a little pea straw
- Drainage gravel
- Duct tape
- Galvanised hinges with screws
- Large bucket
- Mineral turps for cleaning paintbrushes
- Old blanket or towel
- Old metal laundry tub
- Paintbrushes
- Pencil
- Rainwater
- Recycled wood for lid
- Resene GP Metal Primer
- Resene Lustacryl tinted to Resene Palm Leaf
- Resene Quick Dry
- Sandpaper
- Saw
- Scissors
- Screwdriver
- Shade cloth or windbreak fabric
- Tape measure
- Treated timber (or bricks/pavers)
- Worms suitable for a worm farm (these can be purchased online)



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Remove taps and plumbing pipes from the laundry tub and thoroughly clean the whole unit.

STEP ONE

Lightly sand the outside of the metal laundry tub to 'key' the surface and wipe off any sanding residue with a clean cloth.

STEP TWO

Measure, mark and cut four pieces of recycled wood approximately 680mm in length. We used old fence palings, a piece of 130mm x 25mm timber and a piece of 40mm x 20mm timber. Smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

STEP THREE

Attach one of these to the back of the laundry tub, fixing from underneath with 25mm screws, as shown.

STEP FOUR

Measure, mark and cut two 470mm lengths of the 40mm x 20mm timber. Smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

STEP FIVE

Attach these to the three remaining 680mm lengths of timber, as shown, fixing with 40mm screws. This will form the lid of the worm farm.

STEP SIX

Prime both sides of the wooden lid with one coat of Resene Quick Dry and allow to dry.

STEP SEVEN

Paint the outside of the metal laundry tub with one coat of Resene GP Metal Primer and allow to dry. Wash the brush in mineral turps.

STEP EIGHT

Apply two coats of Resene Lustacryl tinted to Resene Palm Leaf to both sides of the lid and the outside of the metal laundry tub, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.

STEP NINE

Position the worm farm against a shed wall or a fence, standing it on treated wood or bricks/pavers to keep it off the ground.



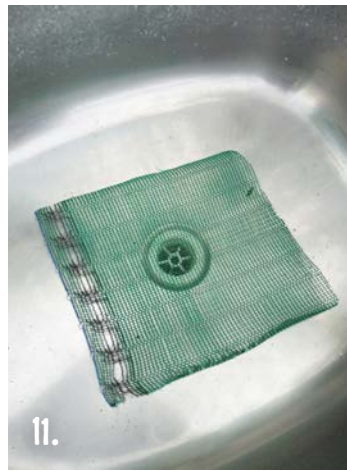
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Handy hint #1
For the first three months, chop up food scraps (or put in a blender) to make it easier for the worms to consume.

Handy hint #2
Ensure the worm farm is positioned in a sheltered (preferably semi-shaded) spot so it is protected from extremes in temperature.



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Handy hint #3
As the worms do their thing, collect the 'worm wee' in the bucket and then dilute at a ratio of 1 to 10 in clean water to use as general plant food in the garden.



18.

STEP TEN

Fix the lid to the worm farm using the two galvanised hinges.

STEP ELEVEN

Lift the lid and place a square of shade cloth or windbreak fabric over the plug hole, as shown.

STEP TWELVE

Place a 50mm layer of drainage gravel on top of this.

STEP THIRTEEN

Cut a piece of shade cloth or windbreak fabric to cover the drainage gravel, as shown.

STEP FOURTEEN

Place a generous layer of compost mixed with a little pea straw on top of this, as shown.

STEP FIFTEEN

Place the large bucket under the plug hole and then gently moisten the worm 'bedding' by sprinkling it with rainwater – any excess water should drain into the bucket below.

STEP SIXTEEN

Carefully spread out the purchased worm mix over the top of the moist 'bedding', incorporating any cardboard packaging the worms were sent in.

STEP SEVENTEEN

Cover the surface with a damp towel or blanket, as shown.

STEP EIGHTEEN

To prevent possible escapees, block up the overflow outlet with duct tape. Shut the lid and let the worms settle in for a week before starting to feed them.

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