
Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by yazinkona - 2009/10/24 00:45

I have a very prolific bin of worms going, about 6 months worth. Have way too much "dirt" they have created and want to use it in the garden. What is best method?

Thanks for your help!

Re:Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by scott rose - 2009/11/02 16:09

do you know will allen/growing power in milwaukee? they put a layer of (food-bananas, etc) on top of a screen on top of the bin and the worms rise to the top to feed. a good no. actually slither through the screen and most others are in the upper portion of the dirt. they can be sifted through and removed. i think he gets about 80% out of the fully vermicomposted dirt and starts all over again.

Re:Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by lpaigeg - 2009/11/23 11:39

I've heard you can also pull like 3/4 of the bedding to one side, and put food in the emptier portion. The worms will migrate to the food side. You can then take out the vermicompost on the other side.

Re:Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by WistarWorms - 2009/11/23 15:10

I have used both methods mentioned above and both work well. Using bait stations as mentioned in the first response is a faster method. Getting the worms to migrate over to the new bedding takes a few weeks whereas the method using bait stations can only take a few days if your worms are really active. All depends how much work you want to put in to it.

Re:Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by Swimmus - 2009/11/24 17:29

Sifting using a homemade sifter is faster than the methods used above. 1/8 is best for getting castings but it is hard to find. Most big box stores only stock 1/4 hardware cloth.

Re:Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by WistarWorms - 2009/11/25 08:57

Yes, hand sifting is faster. As long as the bedding material is fairly dry. Otherwise it clogs up the screen. I use a handmade screen made from window screening and it works great as long as the moisture of the bedding is low. And there are rolls of it at Lowes.

Re:Best Method to separate worm \"dirt\" from worms??

Posted by RaptorTexas - 2009/12/02 22:03

I built a tumbler out of scrap metal and eighth-inch hardware cloth/screen with a gear-motor that rotates about 36 revolutions per minute. It's not pretty but it works great. Only practical if you process a lot of material.

I tried additional processing with window screen but, I felt like it was too fine and left too much of the good stuff. The final product was very clean but way too much work for my gardening purposes.

If you're working it all by hand and only have a small amount of material, make an eighteen or twenty-four inch wooden square with eighth-inch screen on the bottom and shake away.

<http://www.wormdigest.org/images/fbfiles/images/harvester-9fcea1f05154d608d4f5018491806ad2.jpg>

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