

## **Reducing Household Waste – Worm farms**

### **Mark – Spearwood Resident**

We have two different types of worm farms here, I did one of the courses that the Cockburn council ran about two years ago and they help subsidise the cost of buying the worm farm. So it cost me about half the price if I had gone and bought it myself with the worms and I set that up and it took a while and I did lose a few batches of worms learning what to put in them and what not to put in them. But it's a three tiered system and you start effectively with the waste from your kitchen or your garden on top, the worms in the middle and what they make, which is effectively soil, ends up in the third tray at the bottom. It does take a little bit of practice to get it right, but it works efficiently and they will eat anything, literally anything, they will go through. So what goes into our worm farm is everything from our kitchen, including a small amount of meat waste, but not very much. Hair, I have three kids with long hair, and the hair from the hairbrushes goes in. Paper towels, oil towels, like if you wiped out a fry pan and you still have oil on it, instead of throwing it in the bin it goes into the worm farm and they will devour the whole lot. So how we collect our waste from the kitchen is we have a small plastic container with the lid on, so when we are preparing meals the scraps from vegetables, offcuts from certain left over pasta, leftover rice, or something that didn't cook too well, it all goes into the one container and it stays there for a couple of days and it doesn't look the nicest but it stays in the bottom cupboard out of the way. After a few days that then goes into the compost. Things that are left over from a meal, so we have three kids and as much as I try they don't always eat everything on their plate, so some of that the dogs are lucky enough to get, the rest of it just goes into the same container, and that's what we call the wet organics, so when we put it into our compost bin it has to have other ingredients like dry ingredients that can be leaves, branches, lawn clippings that have dried out a bit. We also have guinea pigs, they have a lot of hay and bedding and newspaper, so as long as you have a mix of the two together then you're composting and worm farms will be fine.

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