



City of Swan Worm Farm Subsidy

Transform household food scraps into useful products for your garden

The City of Swan is pleased to offer its residents and ratepayers a **\$125 subsidy** on a new worm farm. This reduces your outlay to \$120 and includes a free instructional workshop. There is also an option of a \$60 subsidy to buy 1kg of worm, reducing your outlay to \$60. This is ideal for those who have an existing worm farm which needs revitalising.

The worm farms, worms and workshops are supplied by the City in partnership with The Worm Shed.



Worm Café worm farm.

What is worm farming?

Worm farming is a simple way of turning food scraps and other organic materials into nutrient-rich products for your garden. It can be done in several ways. In this case, the worms live in a Worm Café – an Australian-made worm farm produced from recycled plastic. It consists of a multi-tray system on legs, with a tap to empty liquid leachate also known as “worm wiz”.

A lid on the top of the worm farm is lifted to insert food scraps and damp, shredded paper. The worms live in the trays and excrete an enzyme-rich solid product called worm castings which can be harvested for use. More information on caring for your worms, using the worm castings and “worm wiz” in your garden will be provided at the worm farming workshops.

Benefits of worm farming

Worm farming contributes to a thriving garden by improving soil quality, reducing waste and protecting water quality.

Using a worm farm helps reduce household waste because it processes food scraps and other organic materials, rather than sending them to landfill, where they produce the potent greenhouse gas called methane. Diverting your organics from landfill is a win for the environment.

A worm farm produces worm castings and “worm wiz” which are natural and non-toxic. Using them instead of chemical fertilisers helps protect local water quality. Chemical fertilisers often wash off into waterways contributing to algal blooms. They can also leach through the soil affecting groundwater resources. Worm farm products are a more environmentally friendly option.

What does it cost?

Option 1 - Worm Café setup



Unit Cost	\$245
Subsidy	-\$125
You Pay	\$120

Option 2 - worms only



Unit Cost	\$120
Subsidy	-\$60
You Pay	\$60

What is included?

The worm farm includes:

- A Worm Café unit made from 100% recycled plastic
- 1kg of worms (about 4,000 worms)
- 15L of castings for “bedding” for the worms
- 500g dolomite
- Worm blanket
- A comprehensive instruction booklet for how to assemble the materials.

You will be given these materials to take home and assemble. Assembly should take 10-15 minutes. The workshop demonstration will show you how to do this.



The complete worm farm package.

How do I claim the subsidy?

1. Pre-order your worm farm and/or 1kg worms only when you RSVP for a free worm farming workshop presented by the City. For dates of upcoming workshops, visit www.swan.wa.gov.au/thinkgreen or call **9267 9267**.
2. Attend the workshop, making sure you bring:
 - Proof of your address (for residents), such as a driver's licence or utility bill
 - A rates notice (for ratepayers)
 - Cash to pay for the worm farm or worms.
3. Pay in cash and collect your order at the workshop.
4. Take your order home, set up your worm farm and enjoy.

Frequently asked questions

Who is eligible to claim the subsidy?

Ratepayers and residents of the City. You will need to bring your rates notice and/or proof of address to the worm farm workshop to prove your eligibility. City staff may also claim the subsidy.

How many worm farms can I buy?

One worm farm per eligible property.

I bought a worm farm previously. Can I claim the subsidy for it?

No, the subsidy is only available for new worm farms bought through this scheme.

Can I claim both subsidies? One for a Worm Café and one for worms?

Yes, however please note that the Worm Café already comes with 1kg of worms.

Do I have to attend a worm farming workshop to access the subsidy?

Yes, attending the workshop will help you learn how to set up and operate your unit for maximum success.

When is the next workshop?

Please visit the City's website to find the next workshop at www.swan.wa.gov.au/thinkgreen or call **9267 9267**.

Can you deliver the worm farm to my house?

No, you need to collect the worm farm at the workshop. They are small enough to fit in the boot or back seat of a standard car.

I previously attended a worm farming workshop. Do I have to attend another one to get my worm farm?

Yes, as the worm farms are collected from the workshop, you will need to attend.

Do I have to set up the worm farm myself?

Yes, there will be a demonstration on how to set up your worm farm near the end of the workshop. You will be given all of the necessary materials to assemble the worm farm, which should take you 10-15 minutes at home.

How long before my worm farm is fully established?

As worm castings are provided for the bedding, your assembled worm farm will be two to three months ahead of a worm farm with bedding such as coir fibre, which the worms must process into castings. This means you should get a good supply of quality "worm wiz" within 24 hours.

For more information, contact the City of Swan

www.swan.wa.gov.au/thinkgreen or call **9267 9267**



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Information and worm farm subsidy prices current as of December 2023.