

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 **\$100 subsidy** on the purchase of a worm farm, complete with worms and worm castings. This reduces the price you need to pay to \$117, including a free instructional workshop. The workshops and worm farms are supplied by the City of Swan in partnership with The Worm Shed.



A Worm Café Worm Farm

By popular demand, eligible people now have the option of a **\$40 subsidy** to purchase worms only. This is ideal for those who have an existing worm farm that needs revitalising with a new batch of worms.

What is Worm Farming?

Worm farming is a simple way of converting 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 contained system, an Australian-made product called the 'Worm Café' 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'.

There is a lid on the top of the worm farm which is lifted to insert your food scraps, which should then be covered with damp shredded paper. The worms live in the trays underneath, eating the scraps and excreting an enzyme-rich solid product called worm castings. Further information on caring for your worms, and using the worm castings and 'worm wiz' in your garden will be provided at the worm farming workshops.

Benefits of Worm Farming

Worm farming can help you have a thriving garden while reducing your waste, improving your soil and protecting water quality.

Using a worm farm helps reduce household waste, as you can use it to process food scraps and other organic materials rather than send them to landfill. Organics in landfill break down to produce the potent greenhouse gas methane, so diverting your organics from landfill into your worm farm prevents this and is a win for the environment.

A worm farm produces worm castings and 'worm wiz' which are natural and non-toxic so using them instead of chemical fertilisers helps protect local water quality. Chemical fertilisers often wash off into waterways, eg. from the front lawn into the street drain, contributing to algal blooms downstream. They can also leach through the soil affecting the quality of groundwater resources. Worm farm products avoid these issues and are a better option.

What does it cost?

Option 1 - Worm Café Setup:

- The unit cost is \$217 for the worm farm and all materials (details below)
- The subsidy is \$100
- **Your price to pay is \$117.**

Option 2 - Worms Only:

- The unit cost is \$105 for 1kg of worms
- The subsidy is \$40
- **Your price to pay is \$65.**
- You may purchase a larger quantity of worms if desired, but the maximum subsidy for Worms Only is \$40.

Please note: the subsidy is **not** available for worm farms that have already been purchased.

What is included?

The worm farm setup includes:

- a 'Worm Café' worm farm (note: bucket shown in the photo is not included)
- 1kg of worms (approximately 4000 worms)
- 20 litres of castings for 'bedding' for the worms and
- a comprehensive instruction booklet for how to assemble the materials.

You will be provided with these materials to take home and assemble (which should take 10-15 minutes). The demonstration at the workshop will show you how to do this.

How do I claim the subsidy?

- 1) Pre-order your worm farm or worms only, when you RSVP for a free Worm Farming Workshop presented by City of Swan – for dates of upcoming workshops, visit http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/Residents/Events_and_Attractions/Current_Events or call 9267 9267.
- 2) Attend the workshop, making sure you bring:
 - proof of your address (resident)
 - or a rates notice (ratepayer)
 - sufficient **cash** to pay for the worm farm or worms (see 'What does it cost', above).
- 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 City of Swan are eligible. You will need to bring your rates notice and/or proof of address such as drivers licence or a utility bill to the worm farm workshop, to prove your eligibility when collecting your worm farm. Staff members of City of Swan may also claim the subsidy.

How many worm farms can I buy?

One worm farm per eligible property (see the previous question for eligibility).

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

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

Can I claim both subsidies? Ie. a Worm Café setup as well as some subsidised worms?

No, it is either one or the other. Note that the Worm Café already comes with worms.

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

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

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 regular 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 to be collected at the workshop you will need to attend in order to pick yours up.

Do I have to set up the worm farm myself?

Yes, there will be a demonstration of how to set up your worm farm near the end of the workshop. You will be provided with all the necessary materials to assemble the worm farm and it should take you 10-15 minutes to do 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 at a 2 to 3 months advanced stage (compared to setting up a worm farm with a 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.

Further Information

For additional information contact:

E: swan@swan.wa.gov.au

T: 9267 9267

Information and worm farm subsidy prices current at January 2017.