

# INDUSTRIAL VERMICOMPOSTING (Worm Farming)

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### WHAT IS INDUSTRIAL VERMICOMPOSTING?

Vermicomposting is the process by which various worms, usually Tiger Worms (*Eisenia foetida*), are introduced to organic waste (garden waste, food scraps and non-toxic and organic industrial wastes) to create a humus like, finely granulated and stabilized material.

Vermicast, also called worm castings, worm humus or worm manure, is the end-product of the breakdown of the organic matter. Castings have been shown to contain reduced levels of contaminants and a higher saturation of nutrients than prior to vermicomposting. Containing water-soluble nutrients, vermicompost is an excellent, nutrient-rich organic fertilizer and soil conditioner.

In more recent times vermiculture has become a successful tool in managing non-toxic industrial wastes and sludge. This is a restorative take on waste management as not only is the waste diverted from landfill but is a high nutrient soil conditioner which can be used for land restoration and conditioning.

### TIGER WORMS?

Tiger Worms (*Eisenia foetida*) are well regarded for their effective and efficient conversion of organic waste to dark, nutrient rich compost.

Distinctive by red and yellow bands along its body - one earthworm and its offspring can breed 1500 worms in one year. In the right conditions they'll eat their own weight in food every day!<sup>1</sup>

### HOW IS INDUSTRIAL WORM FARMING REGULATED?

The industrial worm farm based at our Taupo Manufacturing Plant is compliant with the Waikato Regional Council resource consent and is managed independently by a company specialising in vermiculture.

The compost worms are supplied by an organic certified worm farm at Kinleith and are certified by AsureQuality – a third party independent certification process.

Over 168,500 kgs  
of vermicast was recovered from Laminex New Zealand's industrial  
worm farm in Taupo in twelve months



Sources: <sup>1</sup><http://www.nrc.govt.nz/For-Schools/School-information-packs/Worm-farming/>

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