

HOW TO BUILD A BLACK SOLDIER FLY FARM

What you'll need



- 1 plastic storage box with a tight lid to exclude vermin (approx 70 litres)
- 2 x PVC tees 25mm
- 2 x 1m PVC pipe 25mm diameter
- 1 x PVC coupling 25mm cut in half (used to join pipes)
- 2 x PVC elbows 25mm
- 12 x 35mm screws or headed nails
- Corrugated cardboard and small piece of wire

Steps

There are three main steps to build a compost farm that holds the organic matter and provides a home for the voracious larvae.

STEP 1 – FLY ENTRANCE

The female fly needs to a hole to enter and a place to lay her eggs.

1a To create a fly entry point, start by drilling a hole in the lid with hole saw (35mm diameter).



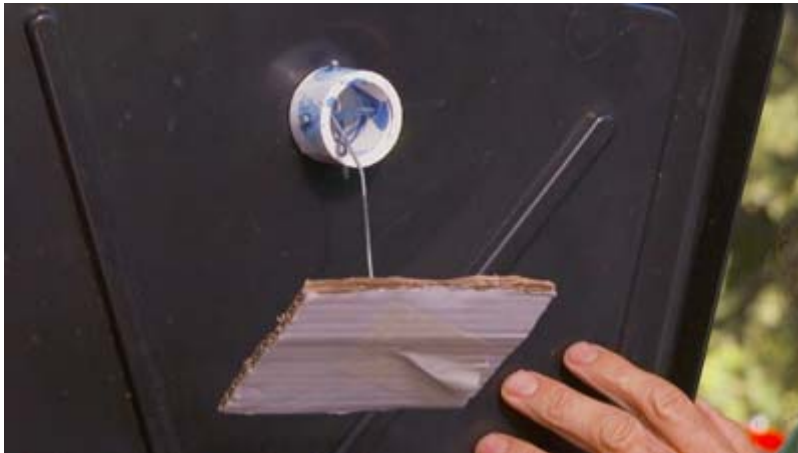
1b Build the entry point using a PVC tee, pipe and coupling.



1c Cut two sections of 100mm pipe, then cut one end at angle (30 degrees) as this will encourage fly to enter. Attach pipe segments to each end of the PVC tee with a screw.



1d Cut coupling in half. Cut another short piece of pipe at 45mm pipe and attach to the bottom of the tee. Use coupling to attach to the lid. One piece of coupling is flush to the underside of the lid.



1e Female black soldier flies never lay eggs directly on compost. Suspend a 100mm² corrugated cardboard piece inside the box using wire attached to the pipe openings. The fly will lay eggs on the cardboard and when the eggs hatch, the larvae falls onto the food scraps. To stop mice entering the compost, block each pipe with nails or screws through the openings. This nail will come in handy to suspend the cardboard.

STEP 2 – THE LARVAE EXIT RAMP

The larvae need an exit ramp to leave the compost into a bucket for collection. Before the larvae pupate, they turn dark and start crawling to find soil to complete their life cycle.

2a Use a 30 degree angle template to mark the position.



2b Before fitting the pipes internally, create three 'entry holes' along the length of each pipes using a hacksaw and file.



2c Drill 2 x holes on outside top side of the plastic box using the hole saw.

2d Install cut pipes x 2 into holes in top of box.



2e Attach the PVC elbows x 2 at top externally, connecting with the internal pipe. You may need to file the holes so that the pipe fits through at 30 degrees.



2f Attach to central PVC Tee which allows the larvae to emerge to fall into a strategically placed container.



STEP 3 – JUICE DRAINAGE PIPE

3a Drill a hole into the opposite end of the storage box and attach PVC elbow.



3b Install a pipe at the bottom of the storage box to provide a means for the juice to exit.



STEP 4 – MAKE IT A HOME

4a Fill bucket with food scraps. The Soldier fly female will come and lay eggs. Once soldier flies are in residence, other females will seek out the bucket to lay eggs, guaranteeing a continuous supply of larvae.

