



Worm Digestion

Pharynx: Worms push their pharynx (throat) out of their mouth to grab food and pull it back. Here the food is coated with saliva.

Esophagus: The food is then pushed down the esophagus to the crop.

Crop: The crop is where food is stored before it is digested in the gizzard.

Gizzard: Worms have no teeth, so the “chewing” takes place in the gizzard. As worms ingest food they also pick up pieces of soil and sand. In the gizzard, the food and the soil grind together much like a food processor.

Intestine: Once the food moves through the gizzard, the intestines use digestive juices to further break down the food. The nutrients are then absorbed into the blood stream.

What is not digested and used by the worm for fuel passes through the body and out the anus as worm castings. This is the good stuff we harvest from our vermicomposting operation.