Blackworms
Handy hints for Holding and Selling

Before receiving your shipment
- Set up an area to house the worms. 500gm of worms can be housed in an area the size of a foam fish shipping box with approximate bottom area of 550mm x 350mm (in a hot summer period it may be necessary to spread them over two boxes).
- Half fill the containers with cool aged water.
- Place an airstone in each container for oxygen and to create vigorous water movement.
- Have on hand sufficient aged water to do at least one complete water change per container. NOTE: In some areas the worms will survive well in straight tap water. As a general rule, if your fish won’t survive in the water, neither will the worms.

On arrival
- On arrival each 500gm pack should be poured into a bucket of cool, aged water and swirled thoroughly by hand. Worms will settle and reclump within a minute or so. Do not leave worms in the rinse bucket for more than a few minutes.
- Water should then be poured off slowly (careful not to pour out worms) through a fine plastic sieve.
- Transfer the clump of worms to the holding box.

Important hint
The condition of the water must be checked regularly for cloudiness. If it has discoloured or has become even slightly cloudy, change it again with water of the correct quality parameters. Under these conditions the worms will keep for several weeks.

Water Parameters
- Water Quality – Change it every day, or more often if necessary, to keep it clean and ensure pH is about 6.7—7.0.
- Water Temperature – Keep water as cool as possible, at least below 25°C and preferably below 20°C (use water filled frozen plastic drink bottles to cool water if necessary). Blackworms can be kept in the refrigerator, subject to frequent water changes.
  - Tolerated Temperature range 4 – 25°C.
  - Ideal Temperature range 4-15°C.
  - AI houses worms at 15-18°C.

Retail packs
We recommend packing serves of 20 grams (20ml) of blackworms into a small bag (without water) and preferably packed in oxygen. For best sales results pre-pack a few blackworms every morning and place them on your counter with a sales sign. Be careful as worms may deteriorate if left for more than a few hours on a warm shop counter (these small packs store quite well in a refrigerator).

Retail sales tip
Put a few blackworms into a tubifex feeder in one of your shop tanks whenever your shop is busy and just watch the customer reaction.

At home
Advise your customers not to add all the blackworms to their tank at once. They are best fed a few at a time via a plastic tubifex feeder. The balance can be kept in an ice cream container half filled with water in a refrigerator, or as an alternative in a plastic bucket of water preferably with an airstone (in both instances water should be changed at least every day with water of the correct quality parameters)

Dry weight analysis
- Protein: 66.5%
- Fat: 9.7%
- Fibre: 23.8%
- Energy: 17.8kJ/g