

PACKAGE BEE INSTALLATION BEEKIND HONEY 2023 (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

1. Please read before installing your bees. To view our package bee installation video, go to <http://www.beekind.com/packagebeeinstallation.html> but please read instructions regardless.

2. SET UP YOUR HIVE UP FACING SOUTH/SOUTHEAST, ABOUT A FOOT ABOVE THE GROUND, IN FULL SUN, AND OFFERING SOME AFTERNOON SHADE WOULD BE NICE. KEEP YOUR BEES COOL AND OUT OF THE SUN. Place your package in a cool dark room or shady and cool outside area until you are ready to install the bees. Ideal temperature for caged bees is about 60 degrees F. The bees have sugar water in the can. This can of syrup will only sustain them for a short time. You will need to make your own.

3. Have your thin syrup mixed and your feeder ready. **YOU WILL FEED THE BEES ABOUT 5 GALLONS OF SUGAR WATER MIXTURE (for approx. 4-6 weeks) of (1:1) SUGAR/WATER.** You will need approximately one gallon sugar water per week. Best to make fresh in small batches. Do not use hot or boiled water. A twenty-five pound bag of sugar should be enough. Give your bees fresh 1:1 sugar water immediately after install.

3a. **YOUR BEES NEED TO BE INSTALLED NO LATER THAN TUESDAY FOLLOWING YOUR PICK UP.** Install the bees at dusk and they will settle down for the night, especially if you are using a brand new hive. Previously drawn comb is very inviting to the new bees if available. *No smoker needed for install.* Reduce the hive entrance with an entrance reducer to further protect and reduce stress on the bees. In the morning, when they take their first flight, the bees will orientate to the location they are in. They will circle above the hive in a figure eight pattern (orientation flight).

4. **PUT YOUR PROTECTIVE GEAR ON WHEN YOU ARE READY TO INSTALL. PACKAGE INSTALLATION IN A DEEP BOX:** Place 4 frames w/foundation and one follower board into the box and move all of these to one side against the wall of the hive. *Put the remaining 4 frames and follower board aside until bees are out of package.* Have your inner cover and top cover ready. Insert the complete unopened package cage into the empty space in your hive touching a frame. **NOW SEE PARAGRAPH 5.**

4a. PACKAGE INSTALLATION TO A MEDIUM BOX: *Because your package cage is taller than the medium size box, stack two medium boxes high. Place 4 frames with foundation and one follower board into each box. Move all frames and the follower board to one side against the wall of the hive. Insert the complete unopened package cage into the empty space in your hive touching a frame.*

5. **REMOVING THE QUEEN FROM BEE PACKAGE AND PLACING THE QUEEN INTO THE HIVE:** With your hive tool or a pair of pliers, begin lifting the can of syrup from the cage. Get a good grip on the can. Carefully remove the can while you lift the metal tab of the queen cage and slide/pull her out of the box. Hold carefully. Replace the can of syrup over the hole of cage (so bees don't escape) while you ready the queen. The queen will be covered in attendants (worker bees); gently brush the outside bees off of the queen cage and into the hive box with a bit of grass. Look carefully to make sure she is moving and not dead.

5a. IF THE QUEEN IS DEAD (WHICH IS VERY RARE), continue with installation process as if she were alive (the dead queen's smell will help keep the bees from leaving) then **IMMEDIATELY CALL US AT THE STORE** for a replacement queen at (707) 824-2905. You must come to Beekind in Sebastopol for the replacement queen. Once you have the new queen, install your new queen but **LEAVE THE CORK** in the new queen's cage for 2 days. When you take out the empty package, remove the cork, insert candy plug and put her back into hive. **NOTE: IF USING BRAND NEW FRAMES DURING ANY INSTALL.** Follow this "leave the cork in process for two days" if using brand new frames.

6. **QUEEN & QUEEN CAGE INSTALL: BE CAREFUL HERE!** Place a rubber band (included) around one of your frames and set aside. Carefully hold the queen and cage in one hand between thumb and forefinger. Carefully turn the screw (included) into the cork plug and then when the queen is facing away from the cork, pull the cork out carefully and then **QUICKLY** cover the hole with your index finger. Do not let her fly. When the queen looks away again, insert the candy plug (included) into the hole. Continued next page...

6. continued... The queen is now ready to be affixed to the frame. Slip the queen cage under the rubber band in the top center of the frame so that the screen of her cage will be facing downward when the frame is inserted into the hive. Place the frame inside the box so that the queen is facing away from the package and there is another frame in-between that frame and the package. This will encourage the bees to exit the package. If it is cold (below 60 degrees F.), windy, rainy, or very late in the evening, you should gently pour a large handful of bees onto the queen to keep her warm and to draw the other bees out of the cage. If they are too cold, they are immobile. You can also just pour all the bees into the hive but that usually puts a bunch of bees in the air. If you do this, then add the remaining frames back into the box and leave the mostly empty cage in front of the hive and do not open for two days.

7. REMOVE THE CAN OF SYRUP SO BEES CAN ESCAPE. PLACE YOUR INNER COVER AND TOP COVER ON THE HIVE BOX. We suggest using a front entrance feeder for the first few weeks while bees establish their first box.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE USING A TOP FEEDER: fill it with about a gallon of sugar water syrup and drizzle a tablespoon down over the frames. If your top feeder uses floats, only fill one side and fill the unused side with wadded up newspaper for a few days. After the bees are building comb on the frames below, you remove the newspaper and use both sides of the feeder with floats. Otherwise they may start building comb in the feeder. Make sure the floats are floating before you put the cover on. If bees build comb in the feeder, remove the feeder for a week or two and put any bees from the feeder at the entrance to the hive and they should go in. Use a front entrance feeder for the first week until this issue is remedied.

8. AFTER TWO DAYS, OPEN THE HIVE AND LIFT THE EMPTY PACKAGE CAGE OUT AND REMOVE THE QUEEN CAGE (the candy in the plug should be all gone). **MAKE SURE THE QUEEN HAS BEEN RELEASED AND TRUST that she is in the hive.** Remove the rubber band on the frame. There will be a few bees that are still in the package cage and they will go back into the hive if you set it near the entrance. **IF QUEEN HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED,** release her **CAREFULLY** into the center of the hive by removing the candy plug and letting her walk out onto a center frame with bees. Remove the queen cage from the hive. Place the frame back into the hive.

9. MOVE THE FRAMES WITH MOST OF THE BEES ON THEM INTO THE CENTER OF THE BOX. Add the remaining frames and follower board. Make sure all the frames are touching and create bee space (5/16 of an inch) between the last frame and the follower boards. There should be empty space between the follower boards and the outside walls to allow air flow. **If you are using two mediums to perform your installation, move the frames from the upper box into the lower box and remove the top box completely.** You should have eight frames and two follower boards in the hive, and the cluster of bees should be centered in the hive at this point. If you are using a top feeder, fill up your feeder and put the inner cover and top cover back on.

10. AFTER FULL INSTALLATION AND CAGE REMOVALS, DO NOT DISTURB FOR ONE WEEK before inspecting the colony inside. If no brood is present, you will need another queen immediately to prevent laying workers! **CALL BEEKIND FOR A NEW QUEEN IN THIS PERIOD.** Continue to inspect your hive every ten days to two weeks.

11. WHEN TO ADD ANOTHER BOX: When all the frames in the first box are about 75% full of drawn comb (or they are just beginning to build on the outermost frames, add another box. Continue this process until they have filled their brood boxes (2 deeps or 3 mediums). After that, you can place honey supers (additional medium boxes for collecting honey) on top as needed.

Please stop by Beekind or call (707) 824-2905 or email us at info@beekind.com us with any questions.

Please join your local bee club. For Sonoma County go to sonomabees.org

To view our package bee installation video, go to <http://www.beekind.com/packagebeeinstallation.html>

BEEKIND HONEY AND BEEKEEPNG SUPPLY
921 Graventine Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472. (707) 824-2905 <https://www.beekind.com>

COPYRIGHT Beekind Honey 2023 (ALL RIGHTS RESERVED)