

PACKAGE BEE INSTALLATION BEEKIND HONEY 2021 Please read before installing your bees.  To view our package bee installation video, go to <http://www.beekind.com/packagebeeinstallation.html>

1. 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 will only sustain them for a short time (5-7 days) **They need to be installed no later than Tuesday following pick up and given fresh 1:1 sugar water when installing.** Have your thin syrup mixed and your feeder ready. Set up your hive up facing south/southeast, about a foot above the ground, in full sun, and some afternoon shade would be nice.

2. PLEASE 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. 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. This is called the orientation flight.

3. If you are ready to install, then put your protective gear on.

3a. 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 into the empty space in your hive touching a frame. **NOW SEE PARAGRAPH 4.**

3b. ALTERNATE: PACKAGE INSTALLATION TO A MEDIUM BOX: Because your cage is taller than the medium size box, stack two mediums 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 into the empty space in your hive touching a frame.

4. 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. Replace the can of syrup over the hole or inside of the package. The queen will be covered in attendants, you can gently brush them off of the queen cage and into the hive box with a bit of grass. Look carefully to make sure she is moving.

4a. 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. NOTE: If you are using brand new boxes and frames, install your queen as noted below but LEAVE THE CORK in the queen cage for 2 days, then when you take out the empty package, remove the cork and put in the candy plug and put her back in the hive. You must come to Beekind in Sebastopol for replacement queen.

5. QUEEN & QUEEN CAGE INSTALL. BE CAREFUL HERE! *If the queen gets loose while you are doing this, STAND STILL as you have just become a landmark and she may fly back to the hive within five minutes.*

Place a rubber band (included) around one of your frames and set aside. Carefully hold the queen in 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 quickly cover the hole with your finger. Do not let her fly. When the queen looks away again, insert the candy plug (included) into the hole. 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 in 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.

6. REMOVE THE CAN OF SYRUP AND PLACE YOUR INNER COVER AND TOP COVER ON THE HIVE BOX. Go ahead and use the syrup in the can. We suggest using a front entrance feeder for the first few weeks while the bees establish their first box. **FEED THE BEES ABOUT 5 GALLONS (approx. 4-6 weeks) OF (1:1) SUGAR/WATER.**

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 2 and put any bees from the feeder at the entrance to the hive and they should go in. Use a front entrance feeder until this issue is remedied.

7. AFTER 2 DAYS, OPEN THE HIVE AND LIFT THE EMPTY PACKAGE CAGE OUT AND REMOVE THE QUEEN CAGE. MAKE SURE THE QUEEN HAS BEEN RELEASED AND TRUST that she is in the hive. Remove the rubber band on the frame. Any bees that are still in the box will go back into the hive if you set it near the entrance. **IF SHE 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 comb with bees. Remove the queen cage from the hive. Place the frame back into the hive.

8. PUT THE FRAMES THAT HAVE BEES ON THEM IN THE CENTER OF THE BOX. Fill the hive up with remaining frames and the extra 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 board. There should be empty space between the follower board and the outside walls to allow air flow. **If you were 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 8 frames and 2 follower boards in the hive, and the cluster 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.

9. AFTER FULL INSTALLATION AND CAGE REMOVALS: Wait two weeks before inspecting the colony. If no brood is present, you will need another queen immediately to prevent laying workers! Continue to inspect your hive every ten days to two weeks.

10. 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 (to prevent swarming and loss of bees). Continue this process until they have filled their brood boxes (2 deeps or 3 mediums). After that, you can place your honey supers on top.

Please stop by Beekind or call (707) 824-2905 or email us at info@beekind.com us with any questions. Please join the Sonoma County Beekeeper's Association (sonomabees.org).

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

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