

PACKAGE BEE INSTALLATION BEEKIND HONEY 2024 (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.

INSTALL YOUR BEES AT DUSK. INSTALL BEES NO LATER THAN TUESDAY FOLLOWING YOUR PICK UP. Previously drawn comb is very inviting to the new bees if available. No smoker is needed for install.

2. KEEP YOUR BEES COOL AND OUT OF THE SUN UNTIL YOU INSTALL. 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. 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 a total of about 5 gallons of sugar water mixture (over approx. 4-6 weeks) of 1 part white sugar to 1 part water (do not boil). Expect to use approximately one gallon per week. Make sugar water fresh in small batches. Do not use hot or boiled water. A twenty-five pound bag of sugar should be enough. Feed bees immediately after install.

4. DEEP BOX INSTALLATION: PUT YOUR PROTECTIVE GEAR ON WHEN YOU ARE READY TO INSTALL: 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. Insert the unopened cage into the empty space in your hive touching a frame. Put the remaining 4 frames and follower board aside to add after bees are completely installed and moved out of cage. Have your inner cover and top cover ready.

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.

IF THE QUEEN IS DEAD UPON INSTALL (WHICH IS RARE), *continue with installation process (your dead queen's smell will help keep the bees from leaving) IMMEDIATELY CALL US 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, remove the dead queen. Follow beekeeper's instruction for installation of replacement queen as it may differ.*

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.

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 is 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.**

6. continued... If weather is cold cold, bees don't move much. You may pour all the bees into the hive but that usually puts a bunch of bees in the air. If you do pour the bees in, 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.

The bees should settle down for the night. Reduce the hive entrance with an entrance reducer to protect and reduce stress on the bees. **Roll up some grass and put into the entrance opening JUST OVERNIGHT.** In the morning, take the grass out early. They will now 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) and take off to forage

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. 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.

11. WHEN TO ADD ANOTHER BOX: Approximately three weeks to one month on new equipment. You will know it is time to add the next box when all the frames in the first box are about 75% full of drawn comb or the bees are just beginning to build on the outermost frames. Continue this process until they have filled their brood boxes. After that, you can place honey supers (additional boxes for collecting honey) on top as needed for honey production or swarm prevention as your colony expands. If you have any questions, please email doug@beekind.com with pictures of your concerns.

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 BEEKEEPING SUPPLY 921 Gravenstein Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472 (707) 824-2905 <https://www.beekind.com>

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