



Instructions for Your Hive Top Feeder

General Information

Hive top feeders are the easiest and most effective way to feed your bees. Feeding bees sugar syrup is essential to the rapid growth of a strong and productive colony. It's also a helpful way to administer medication in the spring and autumn. Our HiveTopper™ feeder is a bee-commerce exclusive, designed and built only for us. Its one-piece seamless construction is fabricated from rugged high-density plastic (like the bumpers on your automobile). Durable, food-safe, weatherproof, UV resistant, easy to clean and completely leak-proof. Bees feed on syrup via a rust-proof screened access. The screening is attached with rust-proof screws and can be removed for easy cleaning. Our unique design allows you to refill the feeder without ever disturbing your bees. You may also check for syrup quantity at any time, without using your smoker or risk of being stung. The unit is designed to give you many years of service with a minimum of maintenance. Holds a whopping 3 gallons of syrup. When you remove the screen, feeders can be nested and stacked for easy storage.

- ✂ **LEAK-PROOF CONSTRUCTION** eliminates all worries about harming the colony by leaking feed directly on the cluster.
- ✂ **BEE-SPACE INTEGRITY** prevents bees from drowning in the liquid. The bees can only access the feeder reservoirs from an area which is the size of bee space.
- ✂ **CONTAINMENT** of the bees insures that bees cannot enter the feed cavities, even when they are empty. This makes it easy for the beekeeper to inspect and re-fill the feeder without smoker or veil.
- ✂ **AUTOMATIC EMPTYING** by virtue of the sloping bottom panels allows all feed to be taken up by the bees.
- ✂ **HOLDS 3 GALLONS** so you need not refill as often.
- ✂ **COLD WEATHER** design allows the bees to take the feed 24 hours a day, especially during cool and inclement weather.
- ✂ **USE AS A WATERER** during the hot and dry months.
- ✂ **REMOVABLE SCREEN** makes it easy to clean the unit. The hardware cloth is held in place with screws that can be removed. With the screens removed, multiple feeders can be stacked in a nested fashion for storage.
- ✂ **EFFECTIVE FOR MEDICATIONS** because the feed is out of sunlight, medications won't break down and lose their effectiveness.
- ✂ **SUPPRESSES ROBBING** by providing access deep within the hive, robbing bees are discouraged from stealing feed from the colony.





Using your HiveTopper™

The feeder sits directly above the top deep hive body, with the telescoping outer cover sitting on top of the feeder. Note: the inner cover is never used while the feeder is on the hive. Fill feeder with sugar syrup. Cover the feeder with your telescoping outer cover.

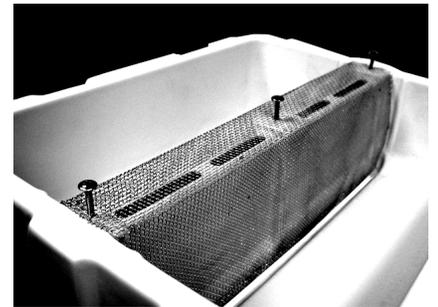
Caring for Your HiveTopper™

After using the feeder, make certain you rinse out any syrup residue and dry the feeder thoroughly. If you wish, you can remove the screening to facilitate cleaning. Store in a dry covered area. When the screening is removed, you can easily stack your HiveToppers.

Installing/Removing the Screening

Removing and installing the screen is easy. Three rust-proof screws secure the screening to the feeder. When installing

the screen, be sure that the side pieces slip into the grooves in the feeder's sides and bottom. Also be sure that the edges of the screen are snug against the plastic feeder body so that bees will not be able to slip past the screen into the reservoirs.



Solving Problems

Sometimes you might find down bees the reservoir of syrup. How did they get in there? There are two possibilities. First check the screening to make sure it fits snug against the walls and bottom of the feeder. There are "grooves" in the feeder's surfaces that the screening is designed to fit against. If there is any significant gap, the bees can gain access to the reservoir of syrup where they are trapped and drown. Adjust the screening accordingly to ensure no gaps.

Another possibility is that your outer cover is warped. It does not fit "flat" on top of the HiveTopper™ and the bees are gaining access to the reservoir from the gaps created by the warped outer cover. If this is the case, either replace the outer cover with a new one, or add a gasket all around the top edge of the feeder. "Frost Tape" has a self-stick side and foam rubber on the opposite site. A product like this is excellent and easy to use for this purpose. Adhere a continuous strip on the upper edge of the feeder. This insures a tight seal and prevents bees from sneaking into the feeder from any gaps created by a warped outer cover.

Recipe for syrup

Here's a simple recipe which can be altered proportionately as needed: Completely dissolve five pounds of pure granulated white sugar into five pints of hot water. Stir to dissolve, and let cool. We add Honey B Healthy™ to the syrup mixture. It not only encourages the bees to take more syrup, it is beneficial to the health of the colony and retards the development of mold in the syrup. Pour the syrup into the HiveTopper™ feeder. Replace the outer cover. Check weekly to see if the bees need more syrup. Discontinue feeding when the bees stop taking the syrup, or when there is ample nectar from the flowers in your area (whichever comes first).



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