



# WHEN YOUR BEES ARRIVE

## Instructions for hiving your new package of honeybees

[www.bee-commerce.com](http://www.bee-commerce.com)

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### THE FIRST FEW STEPS

When you get your bees from the Post Office, they will be hot, tired and thirsty from travelling. *Please follow these steps in the order they are given.*

- Take them home right away (but do not put them in the hot, stuffy trunk of your car).
- When home, spray them liberally with cool water (use a clean mister or spray bottle).
- Place bees in a cool place for an hour (such as your basement or garage)
- Then spray them with syrup. Mix 1 part granulated sugar to 1 part water by weight, or 1 lb. Sugar to 1 pint of water (a pint of water = 1 lb.) Do not *brush* syrup on the screen, as it will wipe off many little feet.
- You must have a means for feeding your bees once they are in the hive. You can use a gallon glass jar with a wide top and a screw-on lid that has tiny perforations punched in it. Alternatively, we strongly recommend using a good quality Hive Top Feeder (an excellent one is available from [www.bee-commerce.com](http://www.bee-commerce.com)).
- Dissolve 5 lbs. of white granulated sugar in 2-1/2 quarts of boiling water (hot tap water is not hot enough to dissolve the sugar).
- Mix 1 teaspoon of Fumidil® and 1 teaspoon Terramycin® in approximately a half a cup of cool water (both medications are available from [bee-commerce.com](http://www.bee-commerce.com)). The medications will not dissolve in the syrup. Add the dissolved medications to the *cooled* syrup. Now you are ready to proceed with the hiving of your new bees!

### HIVING YOUR BEES

Hive your bees in the late afternoon on the day you pick them up, or the next afternoon. *Please follow these steps in the order they are given.*

- Thirty minutes before hiving, spray your bees heavily with non-medicated syrup. Save some of this un-medicated syrup for use in the entrance feeder.
- Using your hive tool, pry the wood cover off the package. Pull the nails or staples out of the cover, and keep the wood cover handy.
- Jar the package down sharply on its bottom so that your bees fall to the bottom of the package. It does not hurt them! Remove the queen cage and loosely replace the wood cover (without the nails).
- Examine the queen cage. Slide the disc to the side slowly. Remove the cork so that you can see the candy in the hole. If the candy is present, remove the disc completely. If the candy is missing, you can plug the hole with a small piece of marshmallow. Remove the strip of Apistan from the back of the Queen cage.
- Out of two small nails bent at right angles, fashion a hanging bracket for the queen cage (frame nails will do).
- Spray your bees again, and jar the package down so the bees drop to the bottom. Remove the can of syrup from the package, and loosely replace the wood cover.
- Prepare the hive by removing 5 of the frames, but keep them nearby. Remember, at this point in time, you are only using the lower deep hive body for your bees. Now hang the queen cage (candy side up) between the center-most frame and the next frame facing toward the center. The screen side of the cage should face toward the center of the hive.
- Spray your bees liberally with syrup one last time. Jar the package down. Toss away the wood cover. Then pour approximately half of the bees directly over the hanging queen cage. Pour (and shake) the remaining bees into the open area created by the missing five frames.
- Gently replace 4 of the 5 frames. Place the inner cover on the hive. If you are using a hive top feeder, the feeder is placed in direct contact with the bees *without* the inner cover in

between. The inner cover will be used only when a jar or pail is used for feeding. The outer cover is placed on top of the hivetop feeder

- Place the hivetop feeder on top of the hive (alternatively, invert a gallon feeding jar over the oval hole in the inner cover; add a second deep super on top of the inner cover; and fill the cavity around the jar with crumpled newspaper for insulation).
- Now place the outer cover on top of hive.
- Add the boardman or entrance feeder filled with non-medicated syrup. (Note that we use non-medicated syrup here because Terramycin is sunlight sensitive.) The boardman or entrance feeder is inserted into the large opening of the entrance reducer, thus leaving a one finger opening for the bees to defend. Leave the opening in this manner until the bees build up their numbers and can defend a larger hive entrance. This takes about 4 weeks. If an entrance reducer is not used, use grass to close up all but a couple of inches of the entrance.
- Take a breath, and leave everything alone for one week. No peeking! The bees may kill the Queen if they are disturbed before 5 days have elapsed after her introduction.

### SEVEN DAYS LATER

- Using your smoker, inspect the hive after one week has elapsed. Look to ensure that the queen has been released from her cage. Remove the cage. Remove any extra honeycomb. It is essential that you search for eggs at this time to ensure that your Queen is working. You must see eggs. Note that extra comb is a good place to start looking.
- Now you may add the 10th frame. Push all the frames tightly together, leaving equal space between the side of the hive and both outer frames.
- Continue checking the hive weekly to note when 7 out of 10 frames are fully drawn into comb and contain eggs, larvae, and capped brood. When they do, it's time to add the second deep hive body and the next 10 frames with foundation. At that time, move the inner cover above the top deep hive body. Remove the hivetop feeder (or jar), and replace the outer cover. If this is a new hive and foundation is in the top deep, continue feeding syrup in order to assist the bees in making the beeswax that becomes comb.
- Happy beekeeping!

