



# Adding Bees to your hive



Be sure to read through this entire document and watch our installation video before adding your bees!



## Prepare your hive for adding bees

1. Install your bees late in the afternoon or early dusk.
2. Make sure you are wearing protective gloves and a protective suit or jacket.
3. Get beside your hive and be ready to install your bees.
4. Have your hive set up with one deep box that contains 9 frames with foundations, in hive feeder, bottom board, and have your inner cover and top set aside while you install your bees.
5. We recommend that you use a hive stand so that your bees are elevated at least 12 inches off the ground.
6. Make sure your in-hive feeder is full of liquid bee feed.
7. Remove four of the center frames from your deep box and set outside of the hive.



[CLICK TO  
WATCH OUR  
INSTALLATION  
VIDEO](#)



## Recommended Items

Hive tool  
Liquid bee feed  
Beekeeping kit  
Beekeeping suit or jacket  
Beekeeping gloves  
Hive stand  
Marshmallow or candy fondant

When you move on to the Installation Guide (following pages) the directions WILL have you release your bees, so you need to have these top 7 steps completed in order to add the bees into your hive.





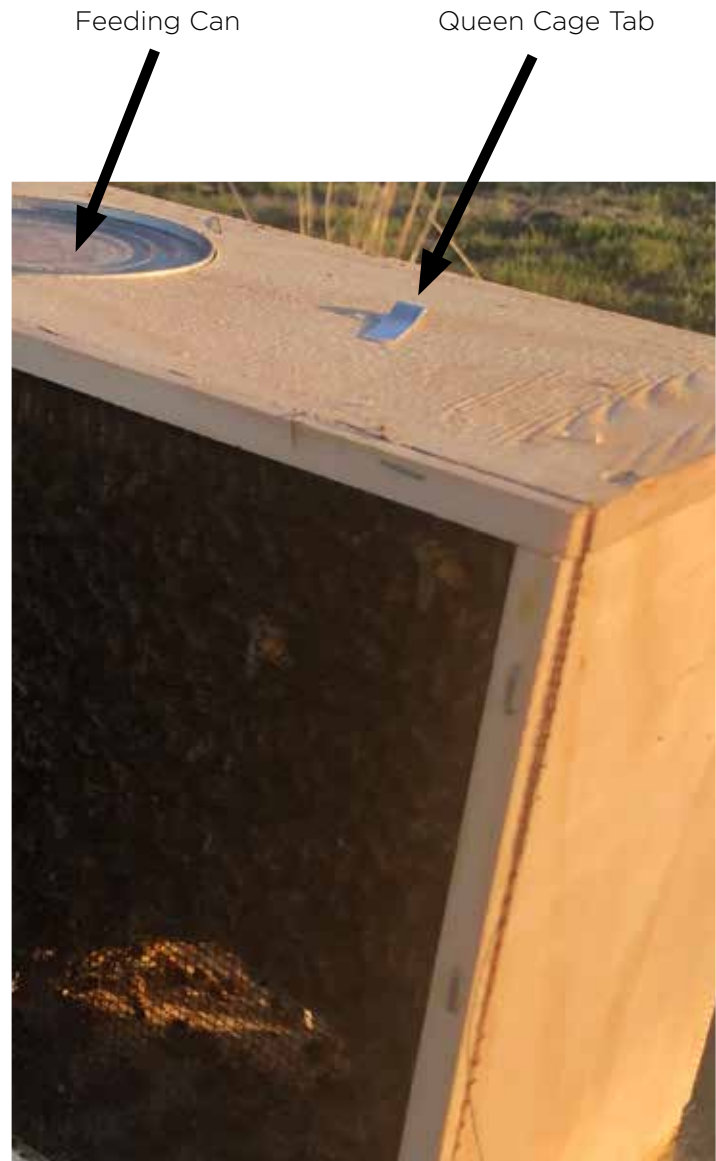
# Installation Guide



**NOTE: Steps 1-4 will vary slightly depending on how you received your bees:**

For bees **shipped to your home**, they will have a feeding **CANDY** in the top center hole

1. Gently tap your package of bees on the ground to drop the bees down to the bottom of the cage.
2. Using your hive tool, pry the wooden top cover off or loosen the feeding can (shown at right). As soon as it is loose, put it back to cover the opening for the bees. The wooden cover has been stapled closed, so you are simply loosening the staples grip.
3. Locate the metal queen cage tab (bottom image) on top and using your hive tool, lift the tab and slide towards the opening. At the same time, remove the feeding can or slide the wooden cover exposing the opening enough to remove the queen cage.
4. When the queen cage is clear of the opening to dispense bees, place the feeding can/wooden top back over the opening.







5. Holding the queen cage, have a piece of marshmallow or candy fondant ready to insert and replace the cork bottom.

6. DO NOT RELEASE THE QUEEN

7. Carefully remove the cork, cover the hole with your thumb, then fill this hole with the marshmallow or candy. NOTE: The candy will seal the opening to the queen and allow the other worker bees to free her and bond with her before she moves into her role in the hive.

8. Take the queen cage and insert the metal tab between the top of the frame and foundation or use a staple, or tack and secure the queen cage to the foundation. (see image below)

9. Twist the queen cage so that the front opening/ screened side of the cage is facing towards the side, and NOT facing towards the foundation or the other frame/foundations. This allows the bees to see the queen easier.







10. Tap the package lightly again to force the bees to the bottom of the cage.

11. Remove the feeding can/wooden top to expose the opening to dispense your bees (top image).

12. Tip upside down and gently shake your bees into the hive. There will be bees that fly outside of the hive. It is impossible to get all of them in the hive but they will find their way back.

13. Put the 9 frames as you can back into the center of the hive without squishing your bees. Be slow and gentle in the process.

14. If you aren't able to get all frames back in, don't worry, you can put them back in during your inspection next week.

15. Put the inner cover and top back on your hive.

16. Leave the wooden bee cage lying on top of the hive on its side (bottom right image) so the opening is facing the front of the hive. Return in 24 hours and remove and dispose of the wooden bee cage. Leaving it by the hive will allow stragglers to move into the hive.

17. **WAIT 7 DAYS TO INSPECT YOUR HIVE - NO SOONER.** You will inspect on the 7th day to see if the queen has been released. If she has **NOT** been released by the 7th day, poke a hole into the marshmallow/candy fondant to help the bees free her. If she has been released, remove the queen cage, and wait another 7 days before inspecting your hive. Resist the urge to check any more frequently than 7 days.

