

Package installation instructions



1. Make sure the hive is setup and ready to receive the bees. You should use **only one Langstroth box**, even if you bought a whole hive kit. The package needs to start working on a smaller area to be able to control temperature and you will add more boxes later.
 - If you are using non conventional hives, like top-bar, AZ Slovenian, etc., you still have to reduce the area where the package is installed
 - If you are using 8-frame Medium boxes or Warre hive boxes, you will need to start with two boxes (one box is too small to start a package and they may abscond).
2. Get sugar syrup ready (you will need a feeder to feed the syrup to the package). Use 1:1 sugar:water ratio (it can be by weight or volume, whatever you want to use). You have to feed syrup to keep the bees alive and to stimulate the package and get the bees working on drawing comb (making the beeswax comb).
3. Wear protective gear.
4. Remove 4 to 5 frames out of the center of the box to make room for the bees.
5. Tap the package on the ground to dislodge the bees from the queen cage (which is inside the package).
6. Remove the syrup can.
7. Remove the queen cage and set aside (protect the queen from environment – do not leave on the sun or over a cold surface). Cover the hole in the package right away so most of the bees stay inside the package.
8. **Working over the open box, look at the queen inside the queen cage and when she's facing away from the hole in the box remove the cork and replace it with a marshmallow.**
9. Place the queen cage hanging in between two frames (the frames should touch each-other). Make sure not to cover the screen of the queen cage so she can breathe and workers can feed her while she's trapped in the box. The queen should be in between the 2nd and 3rd frames, closer to the feeder (so you have: feeder, frame 1, frame 2, queen cage, frame 3).
10. Shake the bees inside the box
11. Slowly replace all the frames inside the box (the bees will get slowly out of the way and cling onto the frames as you add them).
12. **All the frames should fit nicely and the end bars should be touching each other in order to keep "bee space" (do not leave loose frames or any frame outside the box)**
13. Add syrup to the feeder (half to one gallon)
14. Close the hive and leave alone for three days.

Notes:

- We do not recommend using syrup spray, because the weather in our area tends to be too cold.
- We don't recommend using a smoker to install a package either, since not only is it unnecessary, but it can confuse the bees by masking the queen smell and preventing them from finding and protecting the queen in the new hive
- **Leave the colony alone for 3 to 4 days and then check to make sure the queen was released and that she's out of the cage. If she's still in the cage, you can remove the marshmallow and hand-release her into the hive. Top off syrup on feeder at this time.**
- Keep checking on food (trying not to disturb the colony) and add syrup as fast as they take it.

If you find any problems with your package during the first 7 days, please contact us right away by email at livebees@beemaniacs.com. We will follow up over email. In most cases we can work with you to resolve the problem, as long as we're contacted right away.