

Bee Hive Basic Start-Up Equipment

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Please call ahead to have your beekeeping supplies ready for your pick up.

To start a new honey bee hive, the following supplies are the bare minimum you would need, starting from the bottom up:

Hive stand – supports the hive off the ground to keep the hive bottom dry and to insulate the hive.

Bottom board – forms the floor of the hive. A wooden entrance reducer is included.

Hive body – also called a brood chamber. This is where the bees live. The queen lays eggs in the chamber and the brood is raised. Honey and pollen is also stored here for the bees' food.

Queen excluder – keeps the queen bee in the brood chamber so she doesn't lay eggs in the honey supers.

Supers – bees store extra honey for the beekeeper to take. Shallow supers (5 11/16"), medium supers (6 5/8") or even hive bodies may be used.

Frames – hold the honeycomb that the bees make. There are 10 movable frames in each hive body (deep) or super (medium or shallow).

Foundation – starter sheets for honeycomb. We sell 3 kinds of foundation. Duragilt is a plastic inner core sheet with beeswax covering it. It has metal edges to reinforce and strengthen. Crimp wired has 9 vertical crimped steel wires for strength and is made of beeswax. We also sell cut comb which is used for chunk honey and comb honey cut from the frame.

Inner cover – creates dead air space for insulation from heat and cold.

Hive (or top) cover – telescopes over the sides of the top super to protect the hive.

Additional supplies that might eventually be needed:

Bee escape – goes in the center opening of the inner cover.

Support pins – holds foundation in place.

Frame grip – loosens the frame, then grips it.

Economy hive tool – for prying and scraping.

Bee brush – for brushing bees off queen cells and frames, supers or clothes.

Cappings scratcher – for opening the cells to let the honey out.

Entrance feeder – fits into the entrance of the hive. We also carry replacement caps for the feeder.

Smoker – used to calm the bees so hives can be worked on.

Frame spacers – to rest frames on and space them evenly, and to protect frame rests. This allows even spaces for the bees to fully draw combs. Spacers come in 9 frame size and 8 frame size.

Beekeeper suit – zippered coveralls, includes folding veil (need to purchase helmet).

Helmets – plastic sun helmet or ventilated sun helmet.

Veils – folding veil or excelsior veil. The folding veil is made from seamed wire and formed panels to fold flat. The excelsior veil is a wire veil of one-piece round construction.

Gloves – We sell 3 types of gloves: light weight ventilated leather gloves, canvas gloves, or plastic-coated canvas gloves.

Classic glass jars – 8 ounce, 1 pound or 2 pound jars – lids sold separately.

Clear 12 ounce honey bears with lids.

Book – *Starting Right With Bees*

Wooden or metal entrance reducer – small opening for winter, large for summer.

Hive staples – to fasten bottom board to hive body.