



Thank You for your purchase of Honey Bees, we at Harvest Lane Honey!

If you're like most new beekeepers, receiving your bees is new and exciting. You can help ensure a positive and successful experience by having your hive set up and ready to go with a full feeder ahead of time before the bees arrive. Be sure to choose a location that is out of the way of children and separated from pets or livestock.

Remember that bees are sensitive and require ventilation and a steady source of nourishment to sustain their constant and high activity rate. Because their packaged food supply is limited, Bees should be introduced to their hive within 24 hours from the time you receive them. Harvest Lane Honey has made no guarantees as to the success of your hive, due to them being livestock. We do however, want to see you be successful and HIGHLY recommend this method to install your bees.

Package Bee Installation Steps:

- Step 1 – Place your package bees in a cool dark room until evening (1/2 hour before sunset) especially southern states where day time temp's are extremely hot.
- Step 2 - Carefully use a flat head screw driver or hive tool to pry the feeder can loose and slide it up and out of the box, placing a barrier over the hole to keep the majority of you bees in their box also makes things easier at this stage.
- Step 3 – You will also notice a strap or string attached to the top of the box which leads into the whole where the feed can was. This strap holds a small cage containing your queen bee. Carefully detach the strap and remove queen cage containing the queen bee. Remember to a put a barrier back over the hole again to keep the rest of your bees contained for now.
- Step 4 – Upon inspection of the queen cage you will notice a small cork placed in a hole on one side. This will eventually be the exit for your queen as she enters the hive with the rest of the bees; however, it is extremely important that the bees be given a chance to accept their new queen. This is accomplished over a period of several days as the hive works to free the queen. To facilitate this, carefully use a knife or other suitable tool to pry out the cork but above all, **DO NOT RELEASE THE QUEEN**. You must keep the queen bee contained in her cage by blocking the cork hole with your thumb after removing the cork. Replace the cork it with a marshmallow, piece of nougat or other soft candy for the bees to eat their way through as they free the queen over the next few days.
- Step 5 - Use a staple or thumb tack to attach the queen cage, with your new marshmallow, nougat or other soft candy plug on the center frame in the middle of the hive box. Be sure that the screened sides of the cage facing out.
- Step 6 – Pull a frame or two from your hive body and set them aside nearby. This makes room while you introduce the bees.
- Step 7 - Remove the barrier covering the feeder can hole in the top of your box of bees and 'pour' the bees over the frames into the hive body. It's ok to bump the box in order to shake the bees out as they clump together.
- Step 8 - Once most of the bees are out of the box and in or on the hive body, gently place the frames you removed back into the hive body, the bees will move to accommodate them. Then set the package box on its side, on top of the open hive body to allow any remaining bees to move inside
- Step 9 - After 20 minutes to an hour, shake out any remaining bees and place the top and inner covers on the hive body. Next, place the entrance reducer in place with the smallest entry open to keep predators out and to make the hive easier to defend. Then, Remove the bee box and feeding can from the vicinity of the hive in order to prevent the bees from mistakenly attempting to re-establish their home in the shipping box.
- Step 10 - That's it! Your bees have been introduced to their new home. It is now very important that they not be checked or disturbed in any way for a minimum of 7 days. Interfering with the hive before this time has lapsed may result in rejection and death of the queen.