



packages ● queen sales
equipment ● honey

PACKAGE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are to be used as a guide and have been provided to hopefully help new beekeepers feel more comfortable while installing their bees. Use them along with any instructions you have received in a class or by researching other package install instructions online or in books. Be confident, don't rush and enjoy the start of your beekeeping adventure.

You should already have determined the area to set up the hive. (Sunny, facing south with natural windbreak if possible) The hive should have all appropriate pieces painted or stained at least a week prior to package installation. Hive should be leaning forward at a slight angle for drainage if using a solid bottom board. If possible, choose a good time of the day, when it is sunny, warm and not too windy. Have all equipment ready.

YOU WILL NEED

1:1 Sugar Water Mix (add 2tbsp cider vinegar per gallon)
NEW Spray Bottle with Sugar Water
Finished Hive Setup with Finished Frames
Interior Feeder (hive top, plastic bag, frame feeder, bucket)
1/3 Pollen Patty

Hive Tool

A way to attach your queen cage to a frame
(rubber band can work well)

Protective Gear (hat, gloves, suit)

1) When you get home, give your package a light spritz of sugar water. *(Sometimes, the weather might be too wet or cold to install your bees the same day you pick them up or you might not have time that day. If this is the case, simply keep them in a cool basement or dark room and spray them with sugar water 3-4 times a day.)* You don't need to drench them, just keep them happy and busy. Put your package in the sun near your hive.

Honeybees can always sting. However, you will find that by spraying them with sugar water, they are very calm. Also, since they do not have any brood or honey to protect, they are not trying to defend their hive. Because of this they should not be aggressive at all, but mostly gentle. However, you need to work with confidence and if you will feel more confident with protective gear on, then you should! If you see a few bees on the outside of your package, do not panic, they are most likely hitchhikers and not escapees from your package.

2) Take all your frames out. (You can use a second hive body to hold them) and spray each frame on both sides with 1:1 sugar water. This is a good habit to get into anytime you add frames to a hive.

3) Put half your frames back in your hive all on one side. The others are sprayed and waiting.

4) Gently slide the feeding can straight out of the top of your package. It will be sticky but it will slide out. Set it near the hive entrance.

5) Your queen cage will be free to take out now. It is slid into the notch by the can you just removed. Slide it over and take it gently out. **DO NOT OPEN IT.** Brush off the bees and check that the queen is alive and well. Very rarely, a queen can be killed in the package. In the rare case that you have a dead queen, continue with your installation and then call Glenn.

6. Put your queen cage in your pocket to keep her warm. Without the clustered bees, she can get cold quickly.

7) Take your package and **GENTLY** shake the bees into the open half of your hive. They will spill out the opening where the feeder can was. Get as many out as you can. Set the package near the entrance. The remaining bees will make their way into the hive by the end of the day.

8) Take your queen cage from your pocket. Do not open it. These queen cages do not have sugar corks and she needs to stay in there, protected, for a few more days. Be careful not to drop her! With your rubber band, fasten the cage on the side of and toward the top of your next frame (it should be in the middle). Place that frame and cage in the hive next to the frame already there. Place your remaining frames in the hive. (Allow room if you are using a frame feeder.)

9) Place 1/3 of the pollen patty across the top of your frames. Don't cover your center frames. You'll need to get at them in a few days. Arrange your feeder, whatever you have chosen, and give them a gallon of sugar water. Close up your hive. Put your entrance reducer at it's smallest opening.

10) Later that evening, retrieve the empty package, and package feeder and discard. The bees will have gone into the hive and the sugar can attract pests.

FREEING THE QUEEN

Wednesday (or the first good weather day after Wednesday) free the Queen.

YOU WILL NEED

1:1 Sugar Water Mix

1/3 Pollen Patty

Hive

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Protective Gear (hat, gloves, suit)

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Amendment to hiving instructions. These queen cages have sugar corks. Leave the queen capped until Tuesday. The workers will eat through the corks and free her In a couple days

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first frame near the edge to give you room to gently slide out her frame.

5) Open the cap and quickly place your thumb over the opening. She may be quick and try to get out so be careful. Do this OVER the hive just in case. Stuff the marshmallow into the opening.

6) Replace the queen cage near the top of your frames, right between the two middle frames.

7) Replace ALL your frames EVENLY and closely spaced to avoid unwanted burr comb.

8) Replenish the sugar water and pollen patty if needed, and close up the hive.

9) In one week you can perform your first inspection.

CEDAR LANE HAS A VARIETY OF BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT AND WOODENWARE

We have two locations to pick up Beekeeping Equipment and Woodenware. To ensure that we are available when you arrive please call before you plan on coming.

205 Sterling Road, Sterling, Ct Location 860-234-1519 – Glenn

216 Weaver Hill Rd, West Greenwich, RI location 401-249-1106 – Tom