



Learning how to install package bees isn't all that difficult, but if you are new to beekeeping, it can be helpful to review the process from start to finish.



## SUPPLIES FOR INSTALLATION DAY

Spray bottle with sugar water

1:1 sugar water for feeder

Mini marshmallow (one per queen cage) — if your queen cages don't have a candy cork

Small piece of clean cardboard (minimum 6"x6" should be plenty)

Hive tool

Pocket knife

Veil

Suit

Gloves

Lit smoker (optional)



## PICK UP YOUR PACKAGE BEES

You'll want to pick up your bees as soon as possible from your local dealer or from the post office. To control temperature and ward off any stray bees flying around your vehicle, a big sheet comes in handy. Keeping them in a trunk is acceptable as well, as long as it isn't an exceptionally hot day. If you are unable to install them promptly, keep them in a temperate location (not too cold or hot), like a dark, draft-free basement, garage, or outbuilding. If they have run out of feed — generally a tin can inserted into the package — you can mist the outside of the package screen twice a day with a 1:1 sugar syrup in a clean spray bottle.

## OKAY, LET'S INSTALL!

1. Remove the telescoping cover, inner cover, and three to four middle frames and set them aside.
2. Mist your packages with sugar water. If it's below 60 degrees F, avoid this step as you don't want to chill your bees. This gives the bees a little boost after a long journey.
3. Give the package one forceful shake to knock as many bees as possible to the bottom.
4. Remove the feeder container from the package.
5. Place a piece of clean cardboard or some other "lid" to prevent the bees from flying out at this point.
6. Grab the tab or the queen cage and shimmy it out. Remove the queen cage and inspect her (without releasing her!). She will have other bees clustering around her. You can brush them off gently with a feather or your gloved hand.
7. Replace the cork with a mini marshmallow. This gives the colony time to get used to their new queen while they eat through the marshmallow.
8. Place your queen cage. Position her evenly between two frames. If your queen cage has a metal tab, bend it around the frame. Otherwise, you can rubberband the queen cage around the frame until the queen is released.
9. Next, dump the bees into the hive.
10. Place the nearly empty package near the hive entrance and let the bees make their way into the hive throughout the day.
11. Gently replace the frames until all of your frames are back and evenly spaced.
12. Place a pollen patty on top of your frames between the inner cover or the top feeder, depending on your setup.
13. Place your feeder of choice — Boardsman, top feeder, in-frame feeder, to name a few. Fill your feeder with 1:1 sugar water and Honey B Healthy.
14. Return your inner cover and telescoping cover. You'll want something heavy on top — like a brick — to protect against predators or a windy day.