



## **TIPS FOR COLD WEATHER INSTALLATION**

If the weather is too cold to hive your bees (under  $40^{\circ}$  F) here are some tips to keep them warm and healthy until you can install them.

Place your package of bees in a dark, cool area (garage, basement, etc.) Temp should be 50° to 70° F

- Once inside, try not to break the cluster
- Apply a light mist of sugar water to the screens of your package twice a day
- Try to install your bees as soon as possible



## **CARE AFTER INSTALLATION OF PACKAGE BEES**

Feed the bees heavily until the colony is well established (at least the first 3 weeks) using Pro-Sweet liquid feed or a 1 to 1 sugar water mix. If using sugar water you may also wish to consider adding a stimulant such a ProHealth, which prevents fermentation and is mixed with sugar water. Do not add a second deep or supers until bees have drawn out 7 of 10 frames. We recommend an in-hive Pro Feeder to ensure bees have access to feed no matter the temperatures.



## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS: PLASTIC CAGE PACKAGE BEE**

To give your bees the best chance of survival install them right away. If temperature is below 40°F please refer to "Tips for Cold Weather Installation". Make sure the bees have access to sugar syrup.

Step 1: Put on your protective clothing.

**Step 2:** Start your hive with only one hive body. Remove 4 to 5 frames from the center of the hive and set aside. Place entrance reducer on the smallest opening as the exit. (Keep entrance reducer in place until colony is well established, this generally takes a week).

**Step 3:** If you received more than one package, cut zip ties connecting the packages. Then you will need to separate by pushing them apart where they are connected. Always work one package at a time.

Step 4: Remove cover of the can using fingers to push it off

**Step 5:** Remove the feed can and queen cage. To remove the queen cage from the package, the following steps must be done relatively quickly to prevent bees from escaping:

- A. Lightly mist the bees in package with sugar water using the all-purpose sprayer. Skip this step if installing when the weather is below 40°F.
- B. Tap package of bees on ground lightly to drop bees to bottom of the package.
- C. Remove feed can and set aside.
- D. Remove queen cage and store in a safe space out of the wind and cold (if your queen is dead, please contact us within 24 hours.)

Step 6: Install the queen and package bees

- A. Pop open the tabs on the end of the package to open door. This might prove difficult, we suggest placing a hive tool under the tab and prying it open.
- B. Flip the package so the open door is over the hive.
- C. Rock the package back and forth while tapping the bottom and sides of the package, dumping the bees into the opening created by the frames you removed. NOTE: Most of the bees will fall out during this process.
- D. Place the near empty package at the hive opening. Any remaining bees will enter the hive.

**Step 7:** Replace 3 or 4 frames into the center of the hive, being cautious to avoid squishing bees. Leave one frame out of the center of the hive to allow enough space to install queen. Install queen cage and use the appropriate method below based on your specific cage: **OUEEN CAGES** 



Remove the cap closure from the candy tube on the queen cage. To install the queen cage, slide a toothpick through the skinny end of the cage. Do not impale the queen!

Carefully remove the cork and replace with a mini-marshmallow. Take care not to release the queen.



Mini Wooden Queen Cage

Carefully remove the cork from the end with the candy.

3 Hole Wooden Queen Cage

**Step 8:** Attach and suspend the queen cage between the middle two frames so that it will not fall. Make sure that you've faced the screens towards front of the colony.

**Step 9:** Place inner cover over the hive and outer cover in place.

Step 10: Feed bees. See "Care after Installation of Package Bees"

3-5 days after installing your package bees, check on the queen to make sure that she has been released from her cage. If the queen has not been released on the 5th day, manually release her by holding the cage close to the hive and using your hive tool to pull back the plastic tab allowing the queen to walk out of the cage and onto the frame. Once the queen is released into hive, replace the frame in the center that was removed for spacing purposes during installation.

\*\*Be sure to re-check the queen in 10 to 14 days to ensure you can see eggs and larvae present in the hive. If no eggs are larvae present in the hive, fill out a claim on our website. Report your claim within 14 days of receiving your queen to honor our queen guarantee.\*\* MannLakeLTD.com (800) 880-7694