

Mason Bee Harvesting

A 4-STEP PROCESS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



1

**OPEN ALL
NESTING
MATERIALS**



2

**SEPARATE
HEALTHY
COCOONS
FROM PESTS**



3

**WASH &
TREAT
COCOONS
(IF NEEDED)**



4

**STORE
COCOONS
UNTIL SPRING**

1 – OPEN ALL NESTING MATERIALS

Click image for video!



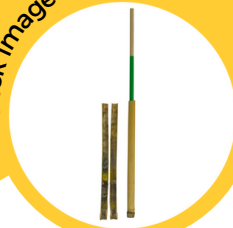
WOOD TRAYS

1. Open trays and use Cocoon Comb to remove cocoons, pests, and debris.



2. Clean debris off trays with a dry brush.
3. Save rubber bands, pest blocker, cardboard backing for next year.

Click image for video!



NATURAL REEDS & BAMBOO

1. Before opening, check for partially filled materials with Cocoon Finder. Save empty materials for next year.

Click image for video!



2. Use Reed Splitter or pinch the mud-capped end between your fingers to open.
3. Remove cocoons & debris with Cocoon Comb.



INSERTS IN BEE TUBES

1. Before opening, check for partially filled materials with Cocoon Finder. Save Bee Tubes & empty inserts for next year.

Click image for video!



2. Remove cocoons by either soaking inserts in warm water for 10-15 minutes to loosen the glue
OR
Tearing one end of the insert, and it will easily unravel.



2 – SEPARATE HEALTHY COCOONS FROM PESTS

Click any image to access the full Pictorial Guide of Things Found in Nesting Materials.



Healthy Mason Bee Cocoon

A healthy mason bee cocoon will appear dark grey or brown, ovular in shape, and firm to the touch. Separate cocoons from pests.



Chalkbrood

Chalkbrood is deadly to mason bees. Dead bee larvae will have a C-shaped, chalky appearance. If you find chalkbrood, throw away the cadavers and follow the washing instructions in Step 3.



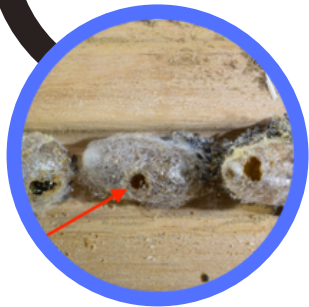
Houdini Fly

Larvae look like sticky white clusters, surrounded by curly orange/brown frass. Remove ALL Houdini fly larvae and seal them in a plastic bag before throwing them in the trash.



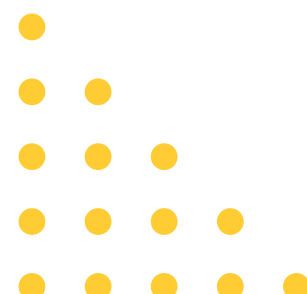
Pollen Mites

Pollen mites look like individual grains of pollen. But, if you look closely, you'll be able to see the mites move around. If you find mites, follow the washing instructions in Step 3.



Parasitic Wasps

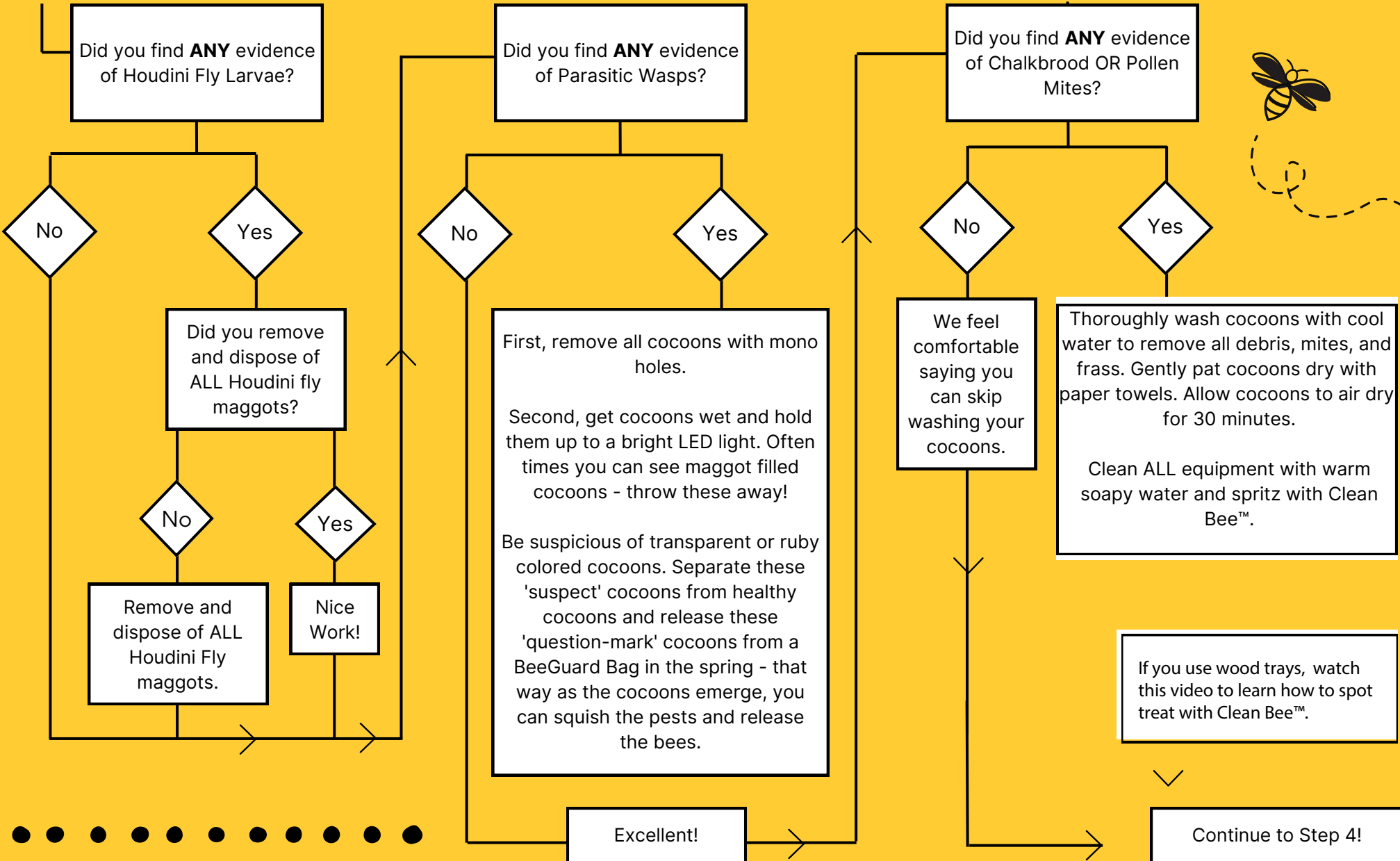
Mono is a chalcid wasp, which is one of the most destructive parasites of mason bees. Evidence of mono is small holes in cocoons and BeeTubes. Discard any cocoons you suspect to have mono and follow the washing instructions in Step 3.



3 – WASH & TREAT COCOONS

We consider washing and treating your cocoons with an antifungal solution, such as **Clean Bee™** to be best practice, however, we've created the following flow chart to be more accessible.

Start Here



4 – STORE COCOONS UNTIL SPRING



STORE

Store cocoons in your refrigerator until the following spring. The cold temps help the mason bees conserve their fat stores over the winter.

Set your fridge temp between **34°-38° F (1°-3°C)**. Modern refrigerators have reduced moisture levels. You can use our [HumidiBee™](#) to prevent cocoons from drying out. To prevent food spores from causing mold to form on your cocoons, place HumidiBee™ in a paper bag before placing it in your fridge.

If you live in a cold climate with winter temps averaging 37°(2° C), you may store cocoons in an unheated garage instead of your refrigerator.

CHECK

Add about a tablespoon of water each month to your HumidiBee™.

Even in the paper bag, you should check cocoons periodically and if you notice excessive mold growth (a little is OK) rinse cocoons with cool water and spritz with Clean Bee™.

Clean HumidiBee™ with soapy water.

SHARE

Every yard is different, but many of our bee raisers like to keep about 200 mason bee cocoons, or about 1.5 cocoons per nesting tube, for the next season.

If you find yourself with extra mason bee cocoons, you can either share cocoons (and knowledge) with local friends and family or participate in our [Bee Buy Back Program](#).

RELEASING BEES IN THE SPRING - WHAT YOUR YARD AND GARDEN WILL NEED

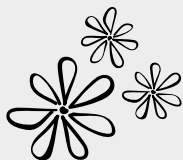
01

Minimum Daily
Temps of
55°F/13°C or
Higher



02

Open Blooms -
Native Plants are
Best!



03

Clay-Rich Mud
Source



04

Yard and
Garden Free
of Chemicals



[LEARN MORE!](#)