



# Nucleus Colony Pick Up Instructions

## Have your hive equipment ready to receive a nuc

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Your hive should be assembled and painted BEFORE you pick up your bees. Nucs do best if installed the same day (or the next day) after you get home. You should have your hive in the location where you are going to install your nuc before you leave to pick up your nuc.

## What to expect of your nuc

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The benefit to buying a nuc is time. We verify that there is a laying mated queen from this year, at least 2 full frames of brood and eggs, and 2 frames of honey/pollen/brood. Unlike in a package of bees, the queen is already laying brood. Having a queen already laying gives the colony at least a 2-week head start on any package of bees. Please note that not all frames will be fully drawn out.

## What to expect upon pickup

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You will enter into Bohman Bee Company's office space. We will give you a copy of your receipt and direct you where to go to pick up your bees. If you would like to check your nuc, now would be the time to do so. We recommend that you bring your suit/veil if your plan to check your nuc. We encourage you to check your nuc before leaving, as this is your chance to see that the queen is laying, that the brood is healthy and that the equipment is to your satisfaction.

## Transporting your nuc

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1. Keep your nuc as cool as possible. There is some ventilation in the nuc box but the nuc can overheat. We recommend keeping the nuc inside your vehicle with the air conditioner or in the open bed of a truck.
2. Make sure you have enough room in your vehicle to prevent your nuc from tipping over.
3. Do not stop for long periods of time with a nuc in a hot car or in direct sunlight. The bees inside can overheat and die.
4. To ensure that multiple nucs have adequate ventilation, do not stack them too tightly together or place in the trunk of a car.
5. Drive directly to the nucs new home



# Nucleus Colony Installation Instructions

## Once home with your nuc

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1. If you plan to install the nuc the same day as purchase, please skip to Step #3
2. Installing next day:
  - a. Place the nuc on top of your bottom board facing the same direction that you intend for the hive to face. The bees will know this is the entrance to their new hive. You cannot change this more than a few inches or you could lose bees.
  - b. **IMPORTANT:** Open your nuc! Let the bees rest for a few minutes to calm down from the trip. To open the entrance of the nuc, slide the vent on the side up. It will pop out allowing the bees to exit.



3. Installing the nuc:
  - a. After letting the nuc rest, you should transfer the nuc into its hive. It is best to do this in the middle of the day when it is sunny.
  - b. Move the entire nuc box off of the bottom board and set aside. Put your hive in place on top of your bottom board.
  - c. Smoke nuc. Gently open the lid of the nuc.
  - d. Using your hive tool, start with the outer frame in the nuc and carefully separate the frame from the box. Move it into the hive, keeping it toward the center of the hive.
  - e. Continue the process until all five frames are centered in the hive. Make sure to put the frames in the same order as they were in the nuc.
  - f. Fill the remaining hive with new frames on both sides of the cluster. You will need 3 or 5 frames depending on the size of your hive body.
  - g. Shake the remainder of the bees from the nuc box into the hive body.
4. Feeding Nucs: The bees need to build new wax quickly in order to give the queen a place to lay eggs and the worker bees a place to store nectar and pollen. Building new foundation takes a lot of energy, and you can help by providing a steady supply of food.
  - a. Mix together 1 pound of sugar and 1 quart of warm/ hot water until dissolved completely
  - b. Continue to feed until you place the first super on the hive and then monitor resources.