

ABOUT BEES

A wonderful relationship exists between humans and the honeybee. It's one that benefits both - we provide the bees with a home and (in the case of commercial apiaries) transport the hives around the countryside to where the trees are in flower, and the bees provide us with honey, wax and other products.

Each bee colony consists of one queen, a number of drones (male bees) and thousands of workers (female bees). The drones' sole job is to fertilise the queen. The queen lays the eggs, and the workers do everything else including guarding, cleaning, feeding and harvesting.

ACQUIRING BEES

There are two main ways to acquire bees. Either buy them from a beekeeper or collect a swarm. Either way you need to buy and prepare your hive equipment first. Swarming is the natural way the bee colony divides. Most swarms appear from mid-September to mid-November.

ASSEMBLING YOUR HIVE

We sell beehives that you can assemble yourself to reduce cost. Timber boxes and frames need to be glued, set and nailed and the outside of the boxes at least must be painted. (We recommend white, Bio non-toxic, enamel lacquer undercoat & paint.)

Boxes must be in standard sizes, either a #8 (8 frames on each level) or a #10 (10 frames on each level). Boxes are sometimes called brood chambers or supers. Once you decide on a size, stick to it!

The hive also needs a lid (with vent holes and a metal cover) and a base (with a landing strip and special risers to create the entrance).

INSIDE YOUR HIVE

Inside the hive are frames which support sheets of foundation wax. One sheet of wax is used per frame which encourages the bees to build worker cells. With timber frames, wire needs to be strung tightly across the frame with the aid of eyelets (so the wire doesn't cut into the wood). The wax is then embedded into the wire with a spur wheel (or electric) embedder.

To stop the queen laying in the top boxes a queen excluder is used. These can be made of plastic, or (preferably) metal, which allow only the workers to pass so that only honey will be stored in the top boxes to allow for easier extraction.

STARTING OUT

8 FRAME STARTER KIT

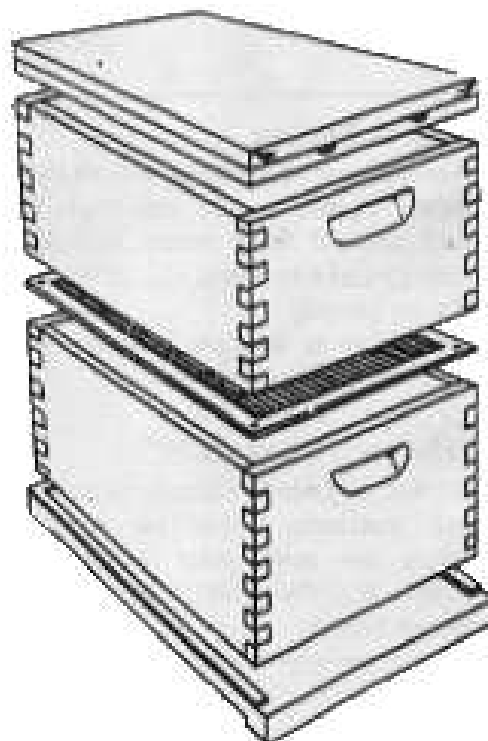
2 x boxes	\$142
1 x lid	
1 x base	
16 x frames	
16 x wax	
Galv. wire 250g	
8F excluder	

10 FRAME STARTER KIT

2 x boxes	\$155
1 x lid	
1 x base	
20 x frames	
20 x wax	
Galv. wire 250g	
10F excluder	

BEEKEEPING TIPS

- Contact the Department of Agriculture to register your hives. Victoria (03) 5430 4444.
- Light smokers with paper and pine needles.
- To move swarms, cut the branch with the swarm or scoop them up in cardboard box and deposit them into the previously prepared beehive.
- Uncapping of the bee frames is done with special knives or scratchers. The knives may be heated with hot water, steam heated or electrically heated. Remove the wax cap of the cell and put the frame into an extractor so the honey can be spun out.



BEE HIVE

Full depth super (8 or 10 Frame)	\$25
Migratory lid (8 or 10 Frame)	\$18
Wooden base (8 or 10 Frame)	\$13
Welded wire excluder (8 or 10 Frame)	\$17.50
Frame (wood)	\$1.40
Frame (wood) (Box of 100)	\$105
Wire, gal 250g	\$12
Eyelets (packet of 500)	\$16
Eyelets (packet of 1000)	\$28
Sheet of wax	\$1.40
Box 147 wax sheets (10 kg)	\$150
Nails 30mm x 1.40mm	\$12.50
50 g tacks	\$5.50

TOOLS

Hive tool, blue	\$20
Hive tool, nickel plated	\$33
Bee brush, nylon	\$15
Wire crimper, plastic	\$27
Spur wheel embedder	\$32
8cm galvanised smoker	\$45
10cm galvanised smoker	\$55
10cm stainless steel smoker	\$60
Plain knife, light	\$50
Plain knife, heavy	\$95
Steam knife, 10"	\$115
Pressure hose, (per m)	\$4
Electric knife	\$230
Emlock hive fastener	\$8
Stainless strap, (per m)	\$1
Spring clips, metal	\$1.30

SAFETY GEAR

Soft net veil	\$17
Round wire veil	\$25
Hood Style Veil (no hat needed)	\$70
Leather gloves (M / XL)	\$33

EXTRACTORS

3-Frame Extractor

Geared, stainless steel (includes stand)	\$637.10
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4-Frame Extractor

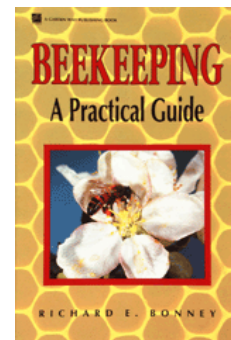
Geared, stainless steel (includes stand & lid)	\$827.00
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STORING & STRAINING

Round nylon strainer (540mm diameter)	\$65
Nylon straining material	\$30
Honey gate, 40 mm	\$25
0.5 kg plastic pale	\$0.60
1 kg bucket	\$1
3 kg bucket	\$2
27 kg plastic bucket/gate	\$30
Sheet of 10 labels	\$15

Whether you're a beginning beekeeper or one with a season or two of experience, Richard Bonney tells you how to keep bees, not just have them. This new book by the acclaimed author of *Hive Management* offers vital, up-to-date information about how to:

- Acquire bees
- Install a colony
- Manage a hive
- Take a crop of honey
- Prevent and treat Varroa and tracheal mites
- Learn about Africanized bees



Beekeeping, A Practical Guide	\$29.95
AgSkills by NSW Department of Primary Industries	\$29.95

