Congratulations on your new package of bees from Betterbee! While there are many ways to install your bees, we found this way to be the easiest and simplest to explain for beginners. Good luck!

Your hive(s) should be assembled, painted and located at their site BEFORE the bees arrive so they can be installed without delay. Bees will do best if installed immediately after you get home. If you cannot install the bees due to weather, store them (for up to a day) in a cool, dark area and spray with water or sugar water.

Getting Ready
You will need:
• Protective clothing of your choice (veil, jacket or suit, gloves, boot bands, etc.)
• Hive tool
• Rubber band
• Feeders and syrup (Pollen Patties are optional)
• Syrup in a spray bottle
• Hive set up (hive stand, bottom board, one deep with ONLY 5 frames, feeder, inner cover and outer cover). You will only need 4 frames if using 8 frame equipment.
• Your package of bees!

Step 1: Preparing your Equipment and the Bees
When you are ready to install, lightly spray the package with sugar syrup (one part white sugar to one part warm water). This will help calm the bees before installing them into the hive. Spraying them will also make the bees less likely to fly.

With your equipment in its location, open the hive to expose the frames. Take one of the five frames out and place the rubber band vertically (up and down) around the frame. Set aside. This will be used to hold the queen cage in place once you remove her from the package.

Step 2: Opening the Package and Removing the Queen Cage
Remove the thin wooden cover from the top of the package. Now you will see a metal tab and the can of syrup exposed. Carefully remove the metal tab and the attached queen cage. Replace the wooden cover so that bees do not exit from the hole left by the queen cage. Examine the queen cage and verify that the queen is alive. Remove the metal disk from the end of the cage.

Step 3: Installing the Queen Cage on a Frame
One end of the queen cage contains candy. If there is a cork on the candy end, remove it. Bees will eat the candy and release the queen in a few days. **DO NOT** remove the cork on the end with no candy. Place the cage between the rubber band and the frame you prepared earlier, **candy side up and so the screen faces the back or front of the hive.** This is very important to ensure the bees can take care of the Queen while she is still in the cage. (See picture 1.) Place the frame in the hive as shown (See Picture 2.)

**Please Note:** If using plastic frames or foundation we recommend adding an additional layer of wax to increase acceptance by bees. We offer a waxing service for assembled frames. You can also wax frames yourself.

www.betterbee.com 1 of 2 1-800-632-3379
Step 4: Installing the Remaining Bees
Firmly bump the package on the ground to dislodge bees from the syrup can, holding on to the thin wooden cover to prevent bees from flying. Remove the syrup can using your hive tool. Shake about 1 cup of bees directly over the queen frame. Place the entire package in the open space in the box. (See picture 2.) **NOTE:** If you are using all medium boxes, place a second box on top to make room for your package, OR dump all the bees in and place in additional frames to fill out the box. If additional bees are left, lean the package against the entrance of the hive.

Step 5: Feeding
With bees on new equipment it is important to feed, as it takes a lot of energy to draw out (build) new frames. There are many more ways to feed than can be explained here, but here are a few tips:

- If you are using a BeeMax hive top feeder, **DO NOT** use an inner cover. This type of feeder is what we at Betterbee use.
- USE an inner cover if you are using a pail feeder or boardman feeders in the hive. Place these feeders on top of the inner cover so the bees can have access to the syrup. Next, place another deep (or two mediums) around the in-hive feeder. Close the hole on the inner cover with duct tape to prevent robbing.
- Use pollen patties (aka Global Patties) when there is no pollen available from flowering trees and plants. Place patties on top of your frames and add a shim.
- When using liquid feed, syrup should be 1 pound of sugar per 1 pound (pint) of water.

After feeding, close the hive. The size of the entrance should be reduced to an opening of $\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch using a wooden entrance reducer. Continue feeding the colony until combs are well drawn out (built). Add another box (deep or medium) once most of the frames are drawn out on the initial box (8 frames if using 10 frame equipment, 6 frames if using 8 frame equipment). When the bees have established 2 deeps or 3 mediums, stop feeding, remove the feeder, and add a super.

Three to Five days Out: Checking for the Queen
Remove the empty package at this time. There may be a few bees in the package, but you can lean the package against the entrance of the hive. Check that the queen has been released. If she is still in the cage, carefully use a nail or match stick to make a small hole in the candy to aid the bees in freeing the queen. Leave the queen cage in the same location if she is in the cage; remove if the queen is out. Install the five frames which were removed for installation. Plan to reexamine the hive 3 days later if the Queen was not released.

Two Weeks Out: Checking for Eggs
You now can examine the colony to verify that the queen is laying eggs. You should see eggs and larvae at this point. It is not necessary to find the queen; you know she is present by simply observing eggs and larvae. If you do not see either eggs or larvae, **give us a call** and we can help further diagnose your situation.