



Quick Guide: How to Install a Nuc

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Congratulations on your new nucleus colony of bees from Betterbee!
Scan the QR code to the right with your phone to watch our video on
installing your nuc, or follow along with the instructions below.

SCAN ME



What you will need for the install:

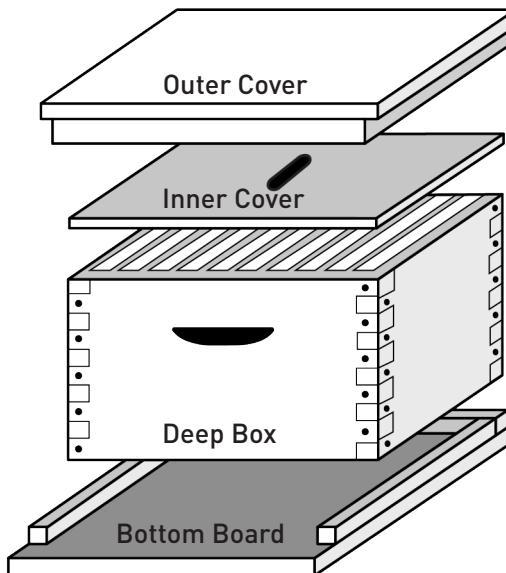
- Smoker
- Feeder
- Hive Tool
- Sugar syrup: recipe QR code on back
- Protective Gear

Getting your bees home:

- Keep your bees cool and secured during transport
- Go straight to your apiary!
- * We recommend making sure your hive is assembled, painted, and located at the final hive site before installation!

As soon as you arrive:

- Place the nuc on top of the new hive, put on your protective gear, and open the sliding gate/door that's on the same side as the new hive entrance. The bees will emerge and begin their orientation flights.
- Leave the nuc alone for a couple of hours (or until the next day). The colony has been agitated by being locked up and bounced around, and they need time to settle.



Install your nuc:

1. Light your smoker and put on your protective gear before approaching the nuc.
2. Set the nuc on the ground next to the hive.
3. Remove the outer and inner cover, and then all frames from the hive.
4. Slowly open the lid of the plastic nuc box by popping out the two tabs along each short edge (front/back).
5. Once the lid is removed, puff a few puffs of smoke over the frames.
6. Working from one side to the other, transfer each frame from the nuc into the hive. Keep the order and direction of each frame the same, and keep them centered in the box.

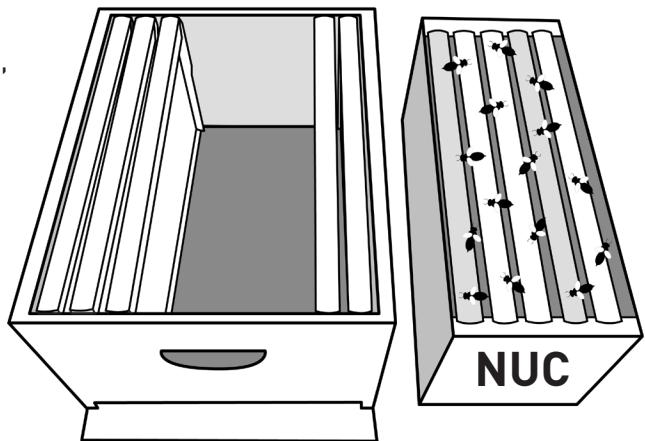
Continue steps and see diagram on the following page.

- Once all 5 nuc frames have been installed, gently push them to the center and install the rest of your frames on each side.

- For a 10-frame hive, you'll insert 3 frames on one side, and 2 on the other.
- For an 8-frame hive, you'll insert two frames on one side and one on the other.

Use your hive tool and gently press the empty frames from each side so any extra space in the hive is on the outer sides. Mind the bee space!

- Shake or dump remaining bees from the nuc box into the hive.



Install your feeder:

- Follow the instructions that came with your feeder.

NOTE: If you have frames of honey from last year, put these in a second deep box, above the deep in which you installed the nuc. There is no need to feed syrup in this case.

- Continue to feed your colony until all of the foundations have been built out (drawn) with comb.

Finishing steps:

- Close the hive back up with the inner and outer cover (or as recommended by the feeder instructions.)

FAQs/Remember:

- Use your smoker to help gently guide the bees.
- Your new bees have been treated for varroa mites in the past months, but now it's your job to actively manage their parasite levels to keep the colony healthy. Once your bees are settled in their new home, you should get into the habit of checking the colony's mite levels regularly and intervening whenever the levels exceed your treatment threshold.
- Not all nucs look the same, and that's okay. You might notice mixed frame types. Some nucs may have slightly more or less bees, brood, capped honey, or pollen, but we promise, they're all good nucs, or they wouldn't have passed our inspection process!
- If you have any questions or concerns, we're here to help you and your bee thrive. Contact us using the information at the top of the first page.

Helpful Resources



Treatment Article



Beekeeping: A Quick Guide



Feeding New Bees