

BEEHUT WITH NESTING TUBES INSTRUCTIONS

(Applies to BeeBasic Hut, BeeHut Spring Kit, BeeHut Basic Set or BeeWorks Hut)

For more detailed instructions, visit www.crownbees.com. Be sure to sign up for Bee-Mail for tips on when to do what.

EASY SET UP FOR INSTALLATION OF BEEHUT HOUSE

- Select a location facing early morning sun to awaken and warm your bees.
- If summer temperatures are very hot, ensure house is in afternoon shade for your leafcutter bees.
- Position house at eye level, 5-7 ft. (1.5-2 m) from ground, for easy viewing and protection from pests.
- Place your bee house out of the line of sight of any bird houses. Birds love to munch on bee larvae.
- Locate the house within 100 - 300 ft. (30-91 m) of a pollen and mud (for spring mason bees) source.
- Surface mount the BeeHut house or lay it on its side in a secure position and location.

Surface Mounting

- Remove base cap (end with holes) and secure it to a wall, fence, or flat surface using screws (**recommended**) or nails. *Screws/nails not included due to varying mounting surfaces.*
- Mount cap with a slight downward angle for rain protection. Too steep an angle and the tubes may fall out. Achieve this angle by first tightening the top screw, and then backing it out one full turn. Tighten the bottom screw then back out ½ of a turn. If using nails, don't drive top nail flush. Gently push the BeeHut housing into the mounted base cap.



Fig. 1 Position base cap.



Fig. 2 Tighten upper screw, back out 1 full turn.



Fig. 3 Tighten lower screw; back out ½ turn.



Fig. 4 BeeHut is installed!

INSERT EASYTEAR™ NESTING TUBES (spring mason bees and summer leafcutter)

- Your kit has 25 spring tubes (8mm), and 25 summer tubes (6mm). Instructions are the same for both.
- Insert 25 same-sized tubes (open ends facing entrance) into the BeeHut before affixing to base cap.
- Leave 1 inch (25mm) of housing space behind the tubes to insert the bees for release. Open the box of spring mason bees or the mesh bag of summer leafcutters (or place loose cocoons) so they can emerge and crawl over the tubes (Fig. 5-8). This helps imprint "home" so bees return to your nesting tubes.
- Gently push housing into mounted base cap, making sure the cocoons are not crushed.
- Push the tubes towards the back of the house for protection from rain and wind. Arrange the tubes at varying depths or lengths. This creates visual indicators to help bees find their selected holes.
- If you are starting with spring bees, remove tubes when bee activity stops. Replace with summer 6mm tubes. Remove leafcutter tubes when bee activity stops. Store filled tubes in BeeGuardian™ bag store until harvesting.



Fig. 5- Insert tubes into front of the BeeHut (8mm tubes shown).



Fig. 6- Insert bees behind nesting tubes. Open spring mason bee box (shown) or summer leafcutter mesh bag.



Fig. 7- Gently insert house into mounted base cap.



Fig. 8- Your BeeHut is ready for pollinating!

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR BEES

Mason Bees for Spring Pollination

Ship Nov-April (USA); Nov 1-Mar 15 (Canada), subject to availability. Feel free to look inside the box at the hibernating bees. Large cocoons are female and small cocoons are male.

Refrigerate until spring blooms arrive

Transfer cocoons to the HumidiBee™ and place in refrigerator to keep your cocoons slumbering. See HumidiBee instructions.

Leafcutter Bees for Summer Pollination

Ship May-Aug, subject to availability. Crown Bees incubates its leafcutters so they are delivered ready to pollinate.

Delivered when summer blooms arrive

You may find that some of your bees have emerged in transport, and will be crawling in the LeafGuardian™, our protective mesh bag. It's okay. They're ready to go to work!

Remove cocoons when day temperatures reach 50-55°F (10-13°C). Place them loosely on top of, or behind the nesting holes (not *in* each hole) in your bee house. As they emerge from their cocoons, they'll crawl over the nesting holes, and fly into your garden looking for pollen and nectar from blossoms. Dig a spade-sized hole near your bee house for a mud supply. Bees use mud for nest building. *See Mud instructions.*

Store developing bees at end of season

When bee activity stops (mid-June), place nesting holes (filled holes facing up) in your BeeGuardian bag. Store the bag in a garage or ventilated shed. This protects developing bees from pests. Harvest bees in the fall.

See online instructions, or fall Bee-Mail.

Leafcutter bees fly best when daytime temps are 75°F+ (21°C+). Place the closed LeafGuardian in your refrigerator for 10 minutes to cool down active bees. Open the bag and place it in the BeeHut as described. Bees will be hungry will seek pollen and nectar from nutritious blossoms. You'll find holes cut in non-fibrous leaves. Leafcutters uses these leaves to build their nests.

Store developing bees at end of season

When bee activity stops (end of Aug), place nesting holes, with filled holes facing up, in your BeeGuardian bag. This protects developing bees from pests. Store the bag in a garage or well ventilated shed. Harvest bees in late winter/early spring.

See online instructions, or fall Bee-Mail.

ACCESSORIES (Items included in some kits or purchased separately)

HUMIDIBEE™

- Store cocoons in your refrigerator using the HumidiBee, a humidity controlling case. It holds about 1,500 mason bee cocoons. Check to make sure the black pad is on top of the green water absorbent "blanket" in the case.
- Place cocoons on top of isolating black pad.
- Add 1-2 tablespoons (15-30ml) of tap water onto the black pad. Don't worry about getting water on the cocoons as their silk casing is waterproof. Each month, check the green sheet for dampness. If dry, add water. Use the monthly calendar affixed to the HumidiBee as a reminder to check the moisture level.
- Store your cocoon-filled HumidiBee in the refrigerator away from the air supply vent that blows in from the freezer compartment. The temperature should be around 34-38° F (1-3°C).
- Moldy cocoons indicate a nearby mold source. Mold is an airborne spore originating from cheese or other sources. Don't panic about your bee health. Remove mold with a short 2-3 minute soak in a mild bleach solution of 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of bleach to 1 cup (237 ml) of water. Gently blot cocoons before returning them to the HumidiBee.
- Use caution when storing cocoons in a refrigerator with ripening fruit that produces ethylene gas. A garage refrigerator with apples, bananas, etc. may need to be opened periodically to allow gas to escape and to introduce fresh air.
- Hibernating bees survive about 6-7 months on stored fats, and after that will begin to expire. For that reason, release mason bees no later than May 1, and release leafcutters no later than August 1.

INVITABEE™ for Mason Bees

Crown Bees developed the InvitaBee to attract spring mason bees to your bee house. Scent pheromones are infused into the cotton sheets. The blue sheets, a color favored by mason bees, includes pulverized cocoons. While there's no guarantee your bees will select your nesting holes, this scent attractant is known to help. If you have the **InvitaBee Plus**, add the 5 natural lake bed reeds to your nesting holes in the bee house. This also *visually* attracts mason bees.

- Keep the pouch closed until your mason bees are ready to emerge. Day temperatures at 52-55°F (11-13°C).
- Place one scent sheet between nesting holes with about 1" of the sheet exposed. Add your bees.
- Carefully place the second sheet on top of nesting holes in 2-3 weeks. Discard sheets after mason bee season is over.

MUD MIXTURE for Mason Bees

The mason bee seals each egg chamber with mud. She prefers a clayey mud that is easy to transport to the nest in her mandibles. Without proper moist mud, bees will fly off. This mud mixture can be added to your soil to ensure you have a more correct consistency for your bees. Mason bees prefer to gather mud from the sidewall of a hole in the ground. Dig a small hole, (spade-sized deep/wide) within 20 ft. (6 m) or so from where your bees are nesting. If there are frogs or birds nearby that might eat your mud-gathering bees, place chicken wire or hardware cloth (with no smaller than 3/4" (19mm) holes) over your mud hole.

Leaving the dry mud in the bag, open it and add about 1/2 cup water thoroughly mixing it together. Add more water as necessary. It's okay to add too much water as it will dry out later. Place about a 1 inch (25mm) thick layer of mud mixture on the southern side of your dug hole. (This reduces drying out due to sun exposure.) Keep the mud wet/moist. In dry climates or very sandy soil, water the ground and mud each morning with a hose. Consider purchasing our Mud Box as an option to keeping your mud moist for longer periods of time.

BEEGUARDIAN™ BAG

Mason Bees: The BeeGuardian mesh bag is an easy way to protect your developing bees from pests. When mason bee activity ceases, place nesting tubes or reeds, with filled holes facing up, in the bag and tightly close it. Store out of direct sunlight in a garage or shed where temperatures will be similar to outdoor temperatures. Developing larvae can be left in this protective environment until cocoon harvest time. Avoid placing your spring mason bees in a cool location, as they need warm temperatures to develop into bees. Bag is machine washable and can be air dried or machine dried using low heat.

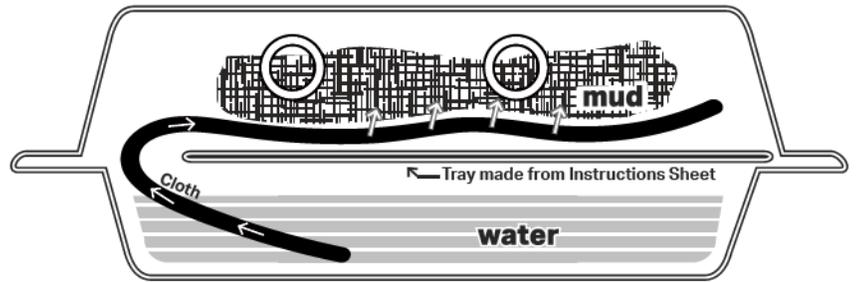
Leafcutter bees: The BeeGuardian mesh bag can also be used to protect hibernating leafcutter bees from pests. In late summer/early spring, after summer bee activity has ceased, place nesting tubes or reeds containing leafcutter larva into bag. Store bag and tubes/reeds in garage or shed until leafcutter harvest time (late winter/early spring).

MASON BEE MUD BOX

Rather than place clayey mud into a hole in the ground and keep it watered daily for optimal moisture, the mason bee mud box uses capillary action to bring water from the reservoir below to the mud just above it.

Make the mud according to the instructions above.

1. Fill the lower chamber with water.
2. Position the black cloth so that one end is at the bottom of the container touching the water to wick moisture to upper chamber.
3. Place the instruction sheet (which acts as a tray) onto the lower container rim effectively pinching the black cloth.
4. Lay the black cloth on top of this instruction sheet. It now lays horizontally and dips down into the water below.
5. Curl the mud log into a "C" shape & place on top of the black cloth.
6. Close the container lid.
7. Position Mud Box within a 25' (8m) radius of your mason bee house in an easily seen area with partial shade.
8. Check the height of water weekly and add water as necessary.



Have questions? Want to learn more? Visit crownbees.com to discover more about solitary bees. We strive to help you be as successful as possible in your bee raising efforts.