



How to protect the nesting station from predators and chemicals

Bird issues are solved by placing the supplied chicken wire in the front of each house.

An occasional **spider** might nest within the house and is easily removed. If **wasps** or hornets begin to nest within the house, remove the nest in late evening with a heavy blast of water. Do not use chemicals as this may also drive your bees away due to the smell. If wasps continue to be a problem, crumple up old newspaper and place around the wooden trays to fill in the empty space. Without open area to build a nest, the wasps will lose interest.

Ants will remove any cocoon, laid egg, or gathered pollen for their nest. While not normal, they can be a challenge for you. There are two methods to try. Place a thick bead of Vaseline around both T stakes a little under the bee shelter. Ensure that there's a thick bead without any interruption. Ants tend to not cross that line. You also can sprinkle cinnamon heavily around on the ground around the T stakes. Ants do not like that smell/texture of cinnamon and it doesn't bother the bees.

Chemicals and their smells will send many of the bees nesting elsewhere. Even adjacent farms with their chemical overspray may have the bees leave to find a less toxic environment. If spraying occurs, it is best done in the late evening. To protect your bees, wrap saran wrap completely around the nesting structure to temporarily protect the bees from chemicals. Remove the saran wrap after spraying or before the morning sun has the bees active again. Avoid using trash bags to cover nests up as some have impregnated insecticide already in the plastic.

Rodents should not be an issue as the wood trays are thick and durable.

During harvest or during leafcutter bee incubation, pests will be found, or will emerge. See Incubating leafcutter bee instructions. Mason bee pests will be found during harvest and are simply sorted out. **If you don't harvest cocoons, pests will quickly overrun your bee supply.**

See how to harvest [here](#).

For more questions, reach us at pollination@crowbees.com

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