



Storing bees for the winter

Mason bees should be stored in the supplied commercial HumidiBee and then in a cooler or refrigerator for the winter. They should be harvested in October. If kept in a refrigerator, a tablespoon or so of water each month should be placed in the HumidiBee to keep the cocoons hydrated. If mold occurs, the cocoons are easily washed in a bath of cold water and bleach (1 cup bleach to 1-gallon water). Pat the cocoons dry and place them back into the HumidiBee. Place the lower filter and absorbent pad in the bleach/water mixture. Leafcutter bees should be stored in their nesting wood trays in an unheated barn/shed to be kept at cooler temperatures

Harvesting trays
See instructions [here](#). Spring bee trays are harvested in the fall, and summer bee trays in late spring.

Cleaning trays

There is one unseen predator that is vital to watch for.

Chalkbrood is a spore that, when a few grains are ingested by larvae within their pollen/nectar chamber, changes them into a larva-shaped spore. The only way to eradicate this pest is to either dip the wood trays

into a bleach/water solution (1 cup bleach to gallon of water) or using a weed burner propane torch across both back and front faces. If you bake the trays, they may crack/warp due to all water evaporating. A hot flame will burn any spore off. Do not worry about any blackened wood as the bees do not mind them. Bind the trays back up and store them in a dry location for the winter.



Questions? Reach out to us at pollination@crowbees.com.

The Crown Bees team.