



### **Nucleus Colony Installation Instructions**

Congratulations on getting your nucleus colony (nuc) from Woodbee Apiaries!

Before starting, please make sure you have:

- Your hive (all you will need is a lid, base and brood box). Also please make sure your hive is assembled and painted.
- Have a suit, smoker/smoker fuel and hive tool ready
- Extra frames

From experience, bees will do better the earlier or sooner you can get them out of the nuc into their new hive. Not every nuc will be exactly the same size or strength. We examine each nuc to confirm there are brood, bees, and a laying and marked queen. The queen has already been mated and will be with the bees in the box.

Depending what time you arrive home will depend on how you start the transfer process. If its morning or daylight the nuc can be placed next to your hive and transfer can begin. If it is night time place the nuc next to your hive and open the door – this is very important as opening the door will allow airflow and will stop your bees over heating during the night. Also, at first light the forager bees will exit and start re-orientating to their new home. If the nuc is not placed next to the hive, the bees will orientate to that spot away from the hive meaning that once bees are transferred to the hive, the foragers will still return to the spot where the nuc was.

- 1- Take all your empty frames out of the bottom box and set them to the side where they are easily accessible.
- 2- Light your smoker and put your protective gear on, you will also need a hive tool.
- 3- Now you can gently open the lid on the nuc and using the smoker, start gently puffing smoke over the bees into the nuc. Only use a couple of puffs, it doesn't take much smoke to distract the bees. It is likely you'll some bees will fly out when you open the lid, but they won't go far.
- 4- Slowly start to take the frames out and placing them in the hive. Start with either edge frame and work back through the middle to the other side. Do not start in the middle. You will also notice the frames fit nicely together – this same order must be followed in the hive. Also note which way the frames are facing in the nuc in regard to the entrance. The frames should have the same orientation left to right and front to back as they have been provided to you in the nuc box.



You'll want to be careful when removing your first frame, it could potentially have your queen on it. Lifting the first frame out of the nuc is always the most dangerous because if the frames are close together then you could harm the bees or queen by rolling them between the frames when lifting.

As you're pulling out each frame from your nuc and placing them into your new hive, it is a good idea to observe what is on each frame.

**Brood** – There will be various stages of life, including eggs, larva, and capped brood.

**Pollen** - Pollen is used to provide protein for both the worker bees and the brood.

**Worker Bees** - The population of bees in the nuc should be in the thousands.

**Queen** – Your nuc from Woodbee apiaries always will have marked queen. The queen will have a spot of colour on her back to make her easier to find. A queen bee will be surrounded by her many attending bees. Note: Woodbee Apiaries checks each nuc for the queen when packaging them up so it is guaranteed there is a queen in your nuc.

- 5- Once all the frames from your nuc are in the centre of your hive, slide them close together, then surround these frames with the empty frames that you pulled from Step 1. Afterwards, turn the nuc upside down and shake it until all of the bees are out - it won't harm the bees to shake the box, but alternatively you can leave the nuc for the bees to come out themselves, but please make sure the queen isn't still in the nuc.
- 6- Now that all frames are in your hive you can put your lid on the hive. Allow your new bees to rest and get used to their new home for a week before doing another inspection.

Do not add on another brood box or honey super just yet. Your bees are not ready for it. There would be too many frames which can slow the growth of your bees. More boxes are only added when the bees have drawn out most of the frames in the box below.

Thank you for your purchase and all the best on your beekeeping journey. Any questions please reach out.

Regards the Woodbee Team.