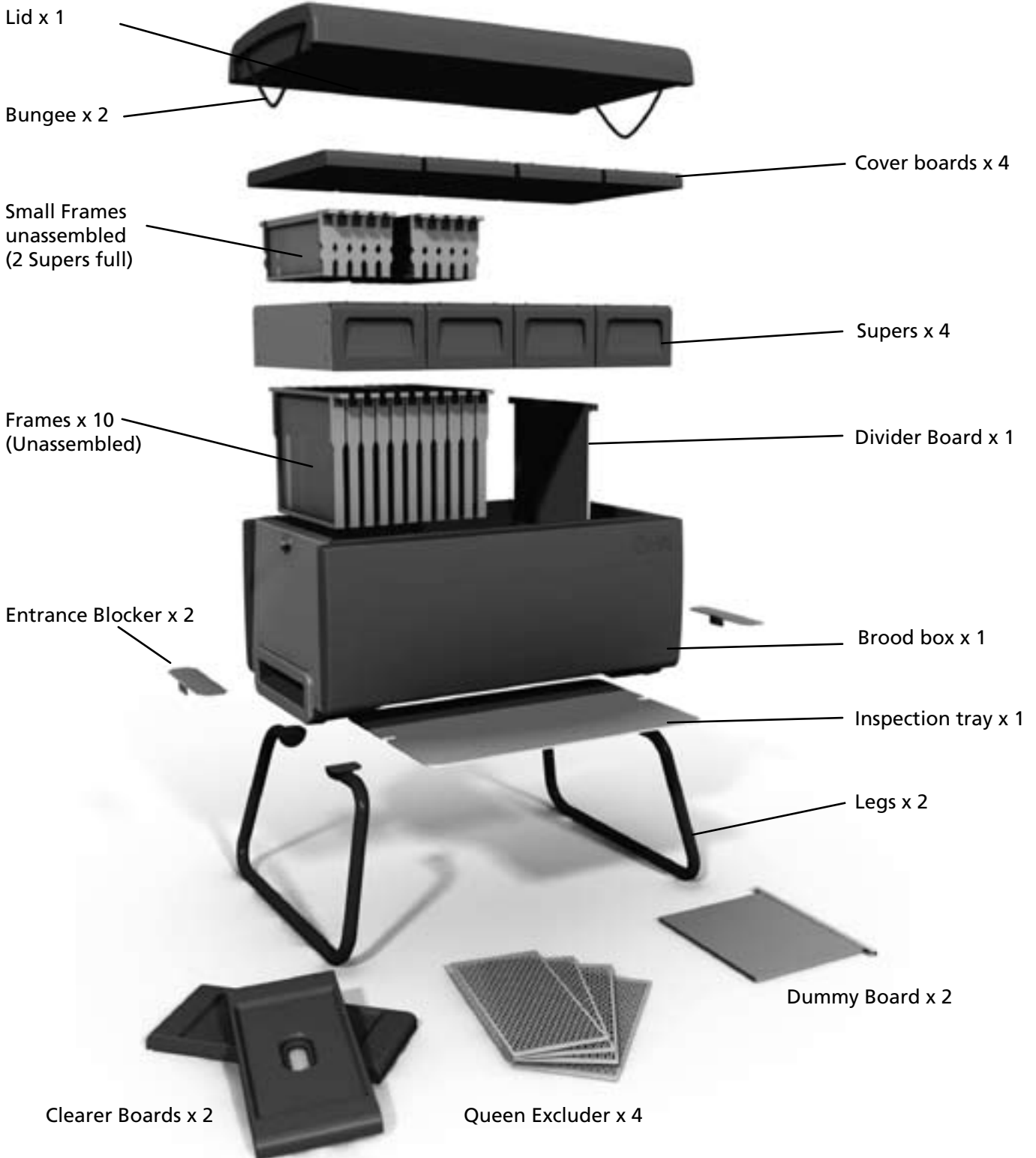




What you have received



What you have received continued...



Beekeeping guide



Honey jars x 4



Tack nails



34 Bolts

Optional starter kit

If you have ordered a beehaus starter kit you should also have received the following items.



Bee suit x1



Hive tool x1



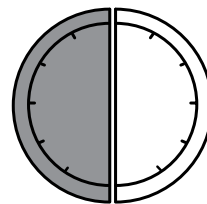
Liquid smoker x 1



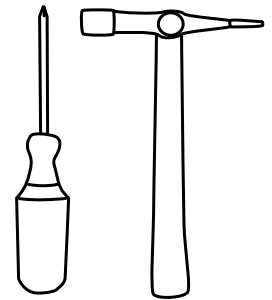
Gloves x 1 pair

Frame Assembly Instruction

You will need to assemble your frames. Instructions to do this can be found at the back of this guide.



Around 30 minutes to assemble your beehaus & 10 minutes per frame.



Tack hammer and Phillips Screwdriver

What to do with your packaging

If your beehaus arrived by courier, please remember to retain all the packaging it arrived in. In the case that you wish to return your beehaus or any part of the beehaus, please call us within 30 days of the delivery. It must be sent back in the original packaging and have no more than normal wear and tear to receive the full product refund.

Locating your beehaus

The position you choose for your beehaus is very important. You can place your beehaus in a variety of places from rooftops to country orchard. Choosing the right location will make it much easier to manage bees. Once you have put your bees in location it can be slightly complicated to move them, so it is worth giving it some thought. Here is a rough guide:

General Concepts

There are few general things to bear in mind regardless of the situation.

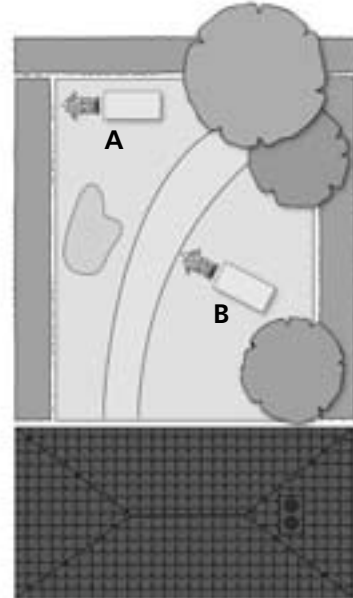
1. Choose a quiet, level location away from busy footpaths where the hive is unlikely to be disturbed.
2. Ensure you leave about 1m of space in front of the hive entrance to give the bees space to fly out. You can encourage your bees to fly up and away above head height by placing an obstacle (such as a hedge or fence) a short distance (i.e 1.5m) from the hive entrance.
3. You should try to shelter the entrance of the hive from the prevailing wind to make it easy for the bees to take off and land.
4. Ideally you should have a water source near the bees but not within 3m. If this is not possible, don't worry, the bees will most likely find water locally.
5. You should avoid locating your bees near horses (which bees don't like), high voltage power lines, children's play areas or under trees which might constantly drip on the hive.

At a later date, you may want to move your bees to a different location. For example: if you are moving house or rearranging the garden. The simple rule is: You can move a beehive less than 1m or more than three miles. This is covered in more details in your beehaus beekeeping guide.

Garden Locations

Generally it is a good idea to place your beehive at the bottom of your garden unless this is very close to a busy part of your neighbours garden or near a public footpath.

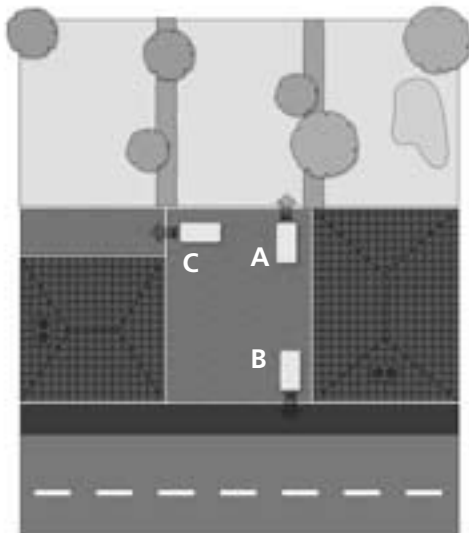
You should ensure you leave space for access to your beehaus. You should be able to stand or move around easily. Try to avoid cramming your beehaus under a bush, low tree



A) is a good spot at the back of the garden. Out of the way of path and trees, but sheltered from the wind. B) is a poor location with the bees flying close to the lawn and path.

Rooftop Locations

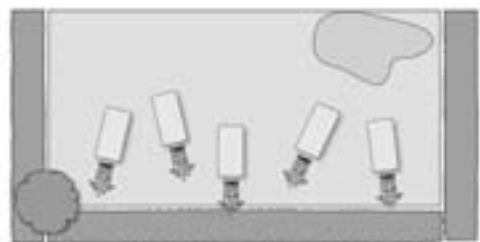
You can keep bees on a rooftop or balcony in the town or the country. You should check that the roof is able to take the weight on a full colony with honey (approx: 200kg). As you would in a garden, you should give the bees room to fly out of the hive. You can locate a hive up to 100 storeys off the ground.



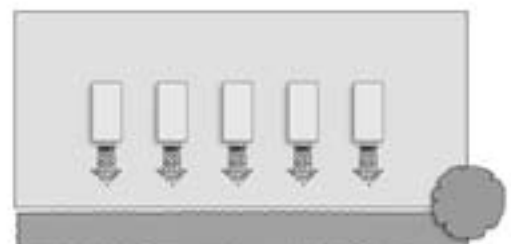
A) and B) are good locations as the bees have a clear flight path. C) is a poor location, as the bees will fly straight into the neighbour's balcony.

Country Apiaries

You can keep your bees in an apiary. You should not have more than 5-6 colonies in a single location as there is unlikely to be enough forage for the bees.



A good apiary setup. The hives are out of the wind and randomly ordered so the bees can easily identify their own hive.



A poor apiary layout. There is no shelter from the wind and the hives will look almost identical to the bees. The bees could drift into the wrong hive by being blown off course while landing.

Assembly of your beehaus

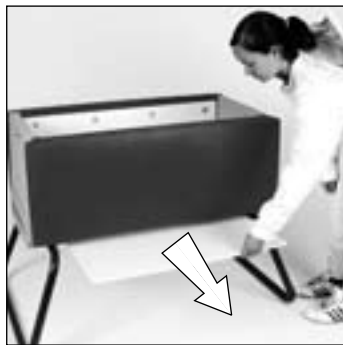
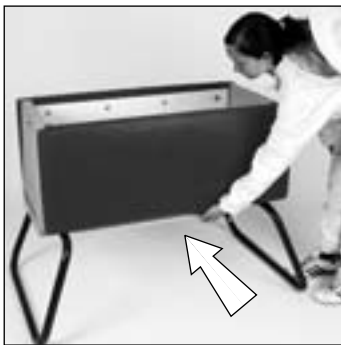
Step 1 - Attaching the legs



Turn the empty beehaus brood box upside down so the mesh faces upward. Then line up the legs with the bolt holes.

Bolt the legs into place using the bolts provided. Repeat on both sides then turn the beehaus upright.

Step 2 - Inserting the inspection tray



Slide the inspection tray on the ledge underneath the beehaus. You normally leave this in for a week to monitor mite drop.

Step 3 - Inserting the divider board



The divider fits in the middle of the beehaus. The tabs fit over the central rib on the side of the beehaus.

Step 4 - Inserting the brood frames



You can place the ten brood frames in one half of the beehaus.

Step 5 - Inserting the dummy board



The dummy boards fit at either end of the brood frames. You use them when you have more or less than eleven brood frames.

Step 6 - Putting on the cover boards



The cover boards are the inner lid of the beehaus. You should start at one end and place the cover boards as shown. There are some small grooves to aid with lining up. Once all four are in place, the beehaus should look like the photo on the right.

Step 7 - Adding the lid



The lid has a recess at either end for lifting. Gently lower the lid over the coverboards.



Secure the lid by pulling the bungee cord down securing it onto the knob. Repeat at the opposite end.



Using the entrance block and wasp guard

You can use the entrance block to completely close the entrance to the beehaus. For example, if you are transporting your bees. If you turn the entrance block around it becomes an entrance restrictor, which makes it easier for the bees to defend the hive against wasps. You can also use it like this over winter to protect against mice or to reduce the entrance when initially hiving a swarm of bees.

Completely closing the entrance



Slide the block in so that the word 'closed' is shown. Once it is pushed in it will hold in place.

Wasp guard



Slide the block in so that the word 'wasp' is shown. Once it is pushed in it will hold in place.

Assembling the supers

Your beehaus supers come in component form. Although you might not need the supers immediately, it is a good idea to assemble them so that they are to hand when you do need them.

Assembling supers



You will need two ends, two sides and 8 bolts per super. The side panels have a smoother surface which should face outwards.

Adding queen excluders

Your beehaus has four queen excluders, which stop the queen walking up and laying into the supers, which are for honey storage only. You should add queen excluders if you have supers on your beehaus.

Fitting queen excluders



Place the queen excluders on top of the frames. The queen excluder slots should be at 90 degrees to the frames.

Adding a super to your beehaus

Over the course of the beekeeping season you will need to adapt your beehaus to suit your colonies requirements. You must provide honey storage for you bees by adding supers to your beehaus.

Step 1 - Adding the supers



Place the supers directly on top of the queen excluder.



Insert the small super frames into the supers. Each super can hold a total of 5 Manley spaced frames or 6 Hoffman spaced frames.



Step 2 - Top cover boards



Add the cover board on top of the first supers. This will allow the bees to access these supers to store honey.



If you are not using the second set of supers simply place them on top of the coverboards.



Step 3 - Adjusting the bungee cord



After adding a layer of supers you will need to loosen the lid bungee. Pass one of the toggles through the hole in the centre of the lid.



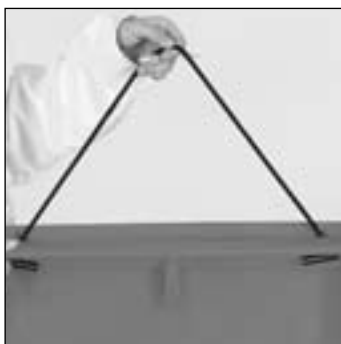
Pull the bungee cord tight, then repeat at the other end. Now place the lid gently on top of the supers and pull the cord over the knob.



Note: Adjusting the bungee cord for a second layer of supers



With a second layer of supers you can extend the bungee by feeding the second toggle through the hole in the centre of the lid.



Pull the bungee cord tight, then repeat at the other end. Now place the lid gently on top of the supers and pull the cord over the knob.



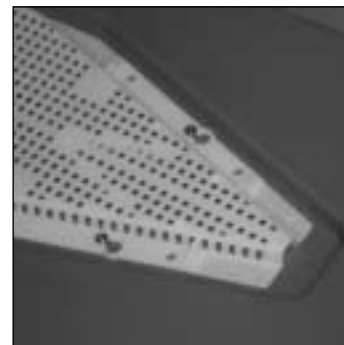
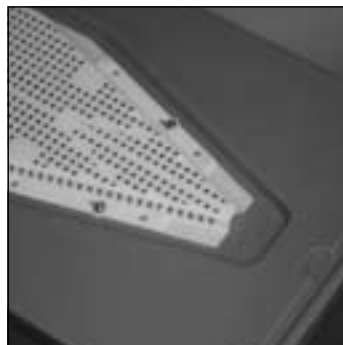
Using the clearer boards

The clearer boards are designed to 'clear' bees from the supers to make it easier to collect the honey from them. Without the bee escape fitted they can also be used to feed your bees in the spring and winter.

Preparing the clearer boards



You should have a bee escape and clearer board base.
Align the bee escape up with the clearer board.



Slot the bee escape over the screws head.
Then click the bee escape into place. Click!

Using the clearer boards



Remove the supers that you want to clear and place the clearer board on top. Make sure the bee escape is on the bottom.



Now replace the supers so they sit on top of the clearer boards. Note: When you re-attach the lid it will be on a slight angle which is okay.

Feeding your bees

A colony of bees needs around 20kg of stored honey to see them right through the winter. Some years, the weather might be bad and they won't have collected enough stores. Alternatively, you might have taken more honey and have to make up the difference by feeding them. You can do this by giving your bees the missing amount either in sugar syrup or fondant. The clearer board can be used to provide an opening for the bees to access the food.

How to setup a feeder



Remove the bee escape from the clearer boards. Put the clearer board on top of the brood box.



Put an empty super on top of the clearer board. Place the feeder inside the empty super and put a cover board on top.

Using your liquid smoker

Bees react to the smell of smoke by filling up on honey in preparation for evacuating the hive. A useful side effect is that because they are so full they become quite docile and calm. You normally spray your bees at the entrance and through the mesh floor a couple of minutes before opening the beehaus to give them a chance to eat some honey.

How to mix the liquid smoke



Pour 20-30ml of concentrated liquid smoke into the spraying bottle.



Fill up to the 600ml mark with cold tap water.



Using your hive tool

The hive tool is the Swiss Army knife of the bee world. You can use it to open your hive, remove frames, clean off propolis or even remove a bee sting. The two most common uses for a hive tool are opening the hive, which the bees seal from the inside with propolis and freeing a frame for inspection. The beehaus has a specially designed lead in between all the parts that the hive tool fits into.

How to open your beehaus



Slide the flat end of the tool between the coverboard and the brood box. Slowly push down to lever the coverboard up.



Step 5 - Removing a frame



Separate the frames by levering apart with the tool.



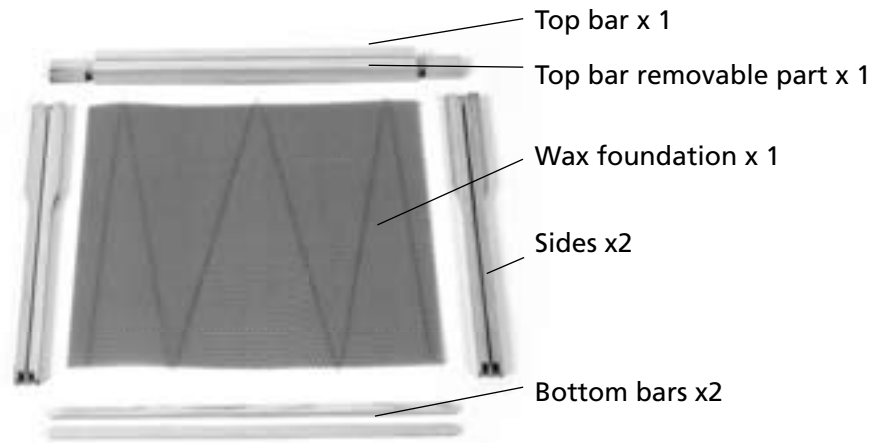
Use the curved end of the tool to lift the frame up.

Guide to Using Your Frames

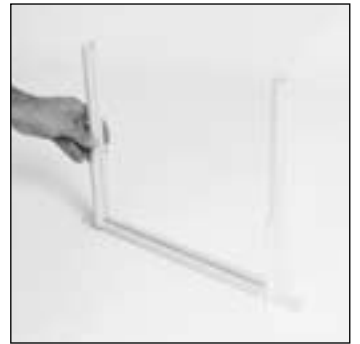
What you have received

What you need

Tack hammer
Tack nails x 200



Remove part of the top bar



Remove the loose bar by levering away, it will snap cleanly off. Keep to one side, it's used at the end to secure the wax.

Push the two side bars into place, making sure that the groove is facing inwards.

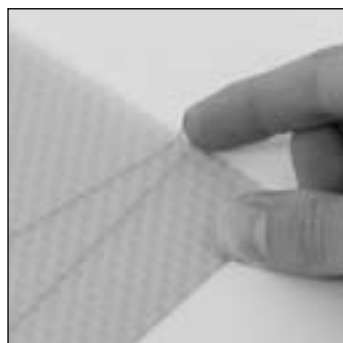
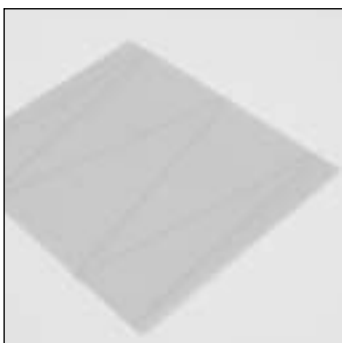
Attach sides to top bar



Tack a nail into each end of a bottom bar. Place this bar in the slots in the side bars.

Gently hammer the nail all the way so that it attaches the bottom bar to the side bars.

Preparing wax foundation



Lay a sheet of wax foundation on the table. You'll notice one end has three wire tabs. Bend these up at 90 degrees.

Starting from the bottom with the bent wires at the top, slide the sheet of wax foundation until it's all the way in.

Tacking second bottom bar and preparing separate top bar piece



Tack the second bottom bar in place.



Take the piece that was snapped off earlier and mark the positions of the wires with a pen. Tap three nails in.



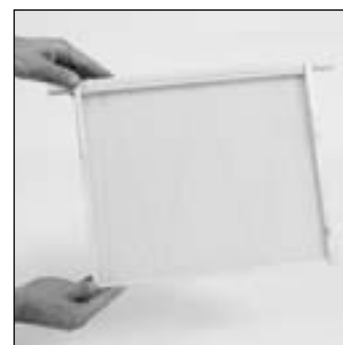
Tacking top bar and sides pieces in place



Place the bar against the wax and the bottom edge and nail carefully into place through the wires.



Finally pin the side bars to the top bar. Congratulations you have just made a brood frame your bees will be proud of!



Using your beehaus

Do's

Do enjoy your bees and honey that they produce.

Do plant bee friendly plants in your garden to help support your bees.

Do join your local Beekeepers Association for help, advice and bee insurance. Visit <http://www.britishbee.org.uk/> for more information.

Do attend a beekeeping course to learn good beekeeping skills visit www.omlet.co.uk/courses/ for more information..

Do register your beehaus with the National Bee Unit, so that they can warn you if there is a bee disease in your local area. Visit <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/> or call 01904 462510 for more information.

Do take care to locate your beehaus so that it is not near a footpath or highly active area of the garden.

Do wear protective bee clothing when inspecting your bees.

Do regularly inspect your bees to check their health, food levels and signs of swarming.

Do supervise children near your beehaus and bees.

Do tell us if you are planning to give up keeping bees. You can sell your beehaus and bees. However, an abandoned hive or colony can spread disease and damage your local natural bee population.

Do be aware that bees sting and by keeping bees you are increasing your risk of being stung. There is a possible risk of a serious allergic reaction to bee sting which in a small number of people can be fatal.

Do use the online Omlet Club to get advice and help. Visit www.omlet.co.uk/club for to join up. It is a hive of activity.

Don'ts

Don't climb or sit on your beehaus.

Don't use your beehaus to keep any other insects or animals other than bees.

Don't keep your beehaus on uneven ground.

Don't flame your beehaus with a blowtorch to kill foulbrood spores. Report the issue to your local bee inspector and follow

Fera guidelines for the treatment of plastic hives. Visit <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/> for more information.

Don't rest a hot traditional bee smoker on your beehaus - it may melt the plastic.

Don't be afraid of asking for help. You can call us on 0845 450 2056 for support, advice or even just a chat.