

A GUIDE TO Harvesting Comb Honey



Made by:



BEEKEEPING *made simple*

*“The beekeeper must first of all be
a bee lover or he will never succeed.”*

~ T. Edwards





Why Harvest Comb Honey?

- Maximum health benefits from the hive - beeswax, pollen and propolis.
- Very minimum alteration by humans (if any)
- Takes the least amount of work for the beekeeper to harvest and very little equipment is needed.
- Sells at a premium price.

Uses for Comb Honey

- Cut into chunks and sprinkle over a salad, waffles or ice cream
- Put a piece on brie cheese and lightly heat in the oven
- Serve with a fruit and cheese platter
- Makes a beautiful display at breakfasts and brunches.





Harvesting Comb Honey

PART 1, SETTING UP THE HIVE

- Take foundation out of the frames you wish to harvest comb honey from. Replace foundation with a starter strip. This is a 1-2" strip that hangs from the top bar of your frames. The starter strip can be made from wax foundation, plastic foundation or wood. Drizzle a little bit of melted beeswax over the strip to secure it to top of the frame.
- Make sure hive is level!
- Obey the "bee space". This means you do not allow more than 3/8" space in between frames.
- Use as little smoke as possible. Beeswax is very porous and can taste smokey.

PART 2, PULLING FROM THE HIVE

- Remove frames from hive once they're mostly capped.
- Use a feather or brush to get the bees off. No smoke!
- Harvest a lot all at once or one frame at a time. Keep in mind, the longer comb stays in the hive, the darker the wax will get. You can store frames of honey comb in the freezer if you cannot harvest immediately.



**PHOTO OF A
FRAME WITH A
STARTER STRIP**



PART 3, HARVESTING

- Cut comb using a bread knife into the size pieces that will fit your containers.
- Freeze! You can freeze the honeycomb in the frame before you cut it or freeze your comb honey after they're in containers.
- If you do not want a pool of honey in your container with the comb, let the cut pieces of comb sit on a wire rack in a tray overnight. This will allow most of the honey to drip off.

CONTAINERS

There's a variety of containers you can store comb honey in. You can put them in a plastic clamshell container, hard, plastic honeycomb case, in a jar with liquid honey or just a Tupperware container.



TIP! USE A FEATHER TO GET BEES OFF YOUR FRAMES.

When pulling honey out of the hive, give the frame one, firm, shake to get the majority of the bees off. Then, use a feather to get any stragglers off the frame. Feathers work much better than bee brushes.



For the Beginner Beekeeper

For the beginner beekeeper, you may not harvest any honey your 1st or even 2nd year keeping bees as you figure out how much honey to leave on the hive over winter. In this case, put just a few foundationless frames in a honey super and see if the bees build off of it. You can harvest just 1-2 frames from this box. The whole box doesn't have to be for comb honey.

That's it!

Comb honey is a fun thing to try as a beekeeper. Don't worry about messing up or the bees building cross comb. If that happens, just cut it off and reattach to your frame using rubber bands or take home and eat!

Are ready to get started keeping bees? Here at Beekeeping Made Simple, we offer online beekeeping classes and mentorship. Learn more at BeekeepingMadeSimple.com. Just for reading our guide, here's a coupon. Use promo code **Bee Guide** for 25% off.

Have questions? Email me. I can be reached at Laryssa@beekeepingmadesimple.com.



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