

Ideas for storing your drawn frames



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8-16-22

Drawn Frames

- ▶ Most beekeepers consider drawn frames GOLD.
 - ▶ Honey supers are coming off hives now. Extra hive bodies will be removed in September as you start to reduce space for your dwindling brood nests.
 - ▶ There are many ways you can store your comb, here are a few I got from fellow beekeepers
 - ▶ Note it is important to separate your brood comb, from honey supers. They are treated differently by most of us
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Once the honey supers are harvested

Typically:

- ▶ The wet frames after extraction are returned to a strong hive, above the inner cover to allow the bees to clean them out.
 - This is infinitely better than just putting them out near your garage for every bee within two miles to fight over
- ▶ Then the honey frames are frozen for at least three days, to kill pests (SHB, Wax Moth) larvae and eggs



30 year old garage freezer

Typical Continued:

- ▶ Allow the frames to come to room temperature, dry out within the house.
- ▶ Now separate your honey frames from your brood frames
- ▶ Scrape them clean now! Propolis is easy to clean when there are no bees present

Clean dry frame ready to be stored

Pictures shared by Robin Stafford



Our method– refined with help from David Clark

- ▶ We spray all brood frames with BT (Certan) which kills wax moth larvae and stops damage.
 - **B402 (also known as Certan), uses Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), a bacterium commonly found in nature that selectively kills wax moths at the larval stage.**
- ▶ We place 7 drawn cleaned frames into an 8 frame box
- ▶ We wrap the box with blue 80 gauge plastic wrap (from electrical store)
- ▶ We store in the shed until spring

Pictures from David Clark



18 inch x 1500 foot 80 gauge plastic wrap, in blue.



Using Hive Butler Boxes – Valerie Wampler

- ▶ Valerie Wampler harvests her honey frames, feeds the wet frames back over the inner cover, freezes them, and then stores them in Hive Butler boxes
- ▶ Great HINT: Freeze frames in newspaper bag sleeves to keep stickiness down



Suggestions from Deb Hewitt

- ▶ Stores honey super boxes so that the frames are visible to the light



Pictures from Deb Hewitt

Brood comb goes into a plastic bin after freezing



Using open air storage – Allan Storm

- ▶ Wax moth do not like light and air circulation. This system from Allan Storm hangs his frames from the ceiling of his garage. Note brood frames are sprayed with Certan!



Pictures courtesy of Allan Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1rS7eAmhvM>



Play (k)

Using large ziploc bags (Rob Jenson)

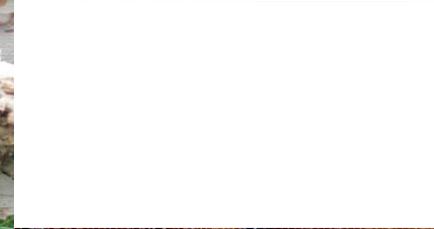
- ▶ DC beekeepers do a bulk purchase of Uline, item # S-12294, 14" x 24" 6 mil reclosable bags (hold 2 deeps or 4 mediums)
- ▶ HINT: Rob warns that if you leave the frames above the inner cover TOO LONG the bees will not only clean them, but will start to fill them again
- ▶ Hint 2: Rob cleans his frames and bags before freezing, and just wipes the condensation off the outside of the bag after freezing. He has had no mold problems
- ▶ Hint 3: His last step before sealing the plastic tub is to add a small sandwich bag with approximately 1 / 4 cup of Para-dichloro benzene (PDB)

Pictures shared by
Rob Jenson



Paramoth

- ▶ When we first started, we stacked our honey frames in boxes, with paramoth crystals in special drawers. The crystals need to be refreshed every few weeks!
- ▶ We lost 20+ supers of drawn frames to wax moth, because we did not refresh the paramoth. Wax moths destroyed the comb and the woodenware.



Don't let this happen to you!

Lanson

I'm not going to panic... There's a bee in the car, but there's nothing to fear... I'll just pull over and let it out... I'm not going to panic...

