

FAQ about Pickup and Installing Package Bees

Picking up your Bees:

When is Bee delivery day?

Bee package delivery is scheduled for Saturday, April 15
11 am – 2 pm. Do not arrive early.

Where do I pick up my bees?

Peninsula Feed Store
346 El Camino Real
Redwood City

I'm busy that day, can you hold my bees until the next week? Can I get them the week before?

We don't have facilities to hold bees. If you are unable make the package pickup, you need to make arrangements with another beekeeper to pick them up. We make only one run per year to pick up bees.

So, what happens on Bee Delivery Day?

Bee pickup is in the parking lot of the Peninsula Feed store. You will have received an order confirmation when you purchased your bees. Please print the confirmation and bring it with you to the pickup.

What time was again?

Plan on being there during the 11-2 window. PLEASE don't arrive before 11 am. We pick up the bees early that day and build in time for traffic, but it's not perfect.

And now, about the bees themselves:

Where do the bees come from?

We buy our bees from a high-quality Northern California breeder who, for a number of reasons, prefers to remain anonymous. The breeder has a special place in his/her heart for bee clubs and so gives us a special price for great bees.

Stuff that's important:

When should the bees go into my hive box?

We *strongly* suggest that you install into your hives the same day to minimize any harm to the bees. Most experienced beekeepers install them later in the afternoon so foragers don't go too far and get lost finding their way back.

HERE'S A REALLY BIG, IMPORTANT THING. Seriously!

When you go to install, make sure to check the queen first. If the queen is dead in the cage, do not install your package. Take a video of the dead queen in her unopened queen cage and call Bob S. at 650-255-1026.

The Guild will provide a replacement queen for you with further instructions. However, the **ONLY** circumstance in which you will be given a replacement queen is if she is dead in the queen cage **BEFORE** you install.

More IMPORTANT stuff:

- Do not transport bees home in a plastic garbage bag or airtight container – they breathe too.
- You are responsible for learning how to install a package **BEFORE** the day you receive the bees.
- Yes, we will have marshmallows for you.

And yet even more IMPORTANT stuff:

When installing, remember to keep your queen safely caged for a few days when first putting her into the hive. The queens in the packages are raised regionally and the bees with her are from other sources, they are not *that* queen's bees. As a result, she needs time to imprint them with her pheromones so they will love their new step-mom.

It's highly advised that you leave the queen in the queen cage for at least two days. The marshmallow (or gummie) in the end hole should provide that delay.

In past years some beekeepers released the queens directly into the hive with sad results. Voids the warranty and costs you another \$45 for another queen.

For people who ordered 2+ bee packages. If your hives will be sited next to one another, orient the openings at different directions if possible, or keep the entrances closed for a day or so. As noted, the package workers are not daughters of the package queen or oriented to your hives location. Significant drift to one box may deplete the population of a nearby box.

WOW, that's a lot!

I've provided a lot of information but it's really not rocket science. All will be well.

Oh, I almost forgot. I have created a list of Youtube videos showing how people **install packages** ([click here to download list](#)). I like the first video from Beekind. The segment on how to remove the cork from the end of the California mini cage is good and while he uses a candy tube the marshmallow that is provided works just as well.