



Beekeeping Equipment Checklist

Here's a list of equipment you'll need to get started with beekeeping.

(From The Basics of Beekeeping by Cherie Langlois)

To begin beekeeping with one Langstroth hive, you'll need the following: A veil, bee suit and gloves: Worn properly, protective clothing helps keep stings to a minimum.

Smoker: This implement produces a cool smoke that settles the bees by causing them to gorge on honey.

Hive tool: A steel tool used to open the hive, scrape wax/propolis and handle frames.

Hive stand: This improves air circulation by elevating the hive.

Bottom board: The bottom floor of the hive.

Two deep hive bodies: These boxes are used as brood and food chambers by the bees.

Ten frames with foundation per hive body: Each frame holds a sheet of beeswax or plastic foundation.

Secreting wax from specialized glands, the bees build hexagonal cells onto the frames. Many beekeepers use nine.

Shallow honey supers with frames: The bees store surplus honey in these boxes.

Queen excluder: A frame and grid that keeps the queen from entering the honey supers to lay eggs (not used by all beekeepers).

Outer cover: Protects hive from the elements.

Feeder: Provides bees with supplemental feed such as sugar syrup when stores are low.