

NCBA BEE SCHOOL 2026

Installing a NUC
with
Mohamad Khalil





Practice putting on your veil before the bees arrive!





Hives should be levelled & prepared ahead of time!

- Make sure you're happy with the location of where the hive(s) will be.
- Make sure you have a strong level surface for your hive(s).
- Hive(s) should be facing Southeast, not towards your neighbor's door or backyard!
- You have all the needed pieces of the hive e.g. entrance reducer, extra empty box, feeder etc.
- You have a hive tool and a smoker!



Picking up the NUC!

- Which car you are taking? Who's coming with you?
- Bring a veil & gloves if you're not comfortable with bees yet
 - If the NUC will be transported inside the car, expect to see a few bees flying around while driving home
 - If needed, get a "laundry like bags" that you can purchase to place NUC in during transport
 - The bees are not trying to sting you in the car, don't panic!
- Do not place the bees in your trunk or truck bed if it's a hot day!
- Try to keep the drive home as comfortable as bee for your thousands of companions!



Preparing for the install

- Place the NUC right next to the new hive you'll be installing them in
- Make sure the entrances are facing the same direction
- Open the new hive(s) & remove at least 5 frames to make room for the new frames
- Get your smoker ready
- Make sure you're all zipped up and ready to go
- Make sure your spectators or guests are protected & have a camera ready to go as well
- Take a few deep breathes and let's get started!



Installing the NUC

- Remove whatever they've placed to block the entrance on the NUC
 - This is sometimes duct tape, stapled screen wire, or you might have to pop up the entrance on plastic NUC
 - Bees will come flying out as soon as you do this
- A couple of puffs of smoke at the entrance & a couple of puffs under the top lid to keep the bees calm
- Wait at least 10 seconds and now remove the top cover very gently
 - Place lid upside down against the entrances of new hive so bees can walk into their new home
 - Begin to gently prying the frames apart
 - Take 1 frame out, preferably not the one right against the sides of the hives
 - While holding this frame above the new hive, inspect both sides of the frame
 - What do you see? Brood, nectar, pollen, queen, drones?
 - Carefully and calmly transfer the full frame into the new hive
 - Move on to next frames, making sure they are pressed against the previously installed frames
 - Keep going until you've moved all of the frames to the new hive



Closing up the hive with the bees

- Dump any remaining bees in the box, into their new home
 - Place box right outside & touching the entrance of the new hive for the remaining bees to find their way
- Place the empty frames on the outside of the bees to expand into
- Once you've filled all the empty space with the empty frames, put the inner cover on
- Add an empty super (or deep) on top of the inner cover
- Add the mason jar feeders (1:1 sugar syrup) on top of the inner cover, inside the empty box
- Place the outer cover on top

Congratulations!!!

Nuc next to new hive



Make space for the frames



Smoke the bees



Take the cover off



Placement of top cover



Pry the frames apart



Inspect the frames



Transfer the frames





Empty frames on the outside





Placement of empty NUC



Done!





Got bees?

Have a friend
help gently
brush them off





Can't install the NUC yet?

- Place the NUC on top of their new home and remove the obstruction/tape to the entrance.
- The bees will orient to this new location from their current hive.
- Once ready, place the NUC next to the hive and follow the previous steps to install the NUC.



Note: Don't forget them!

Time to watch!



Enjoy them!





Thank you!