

The Beekeeper's Ideal Honey House

The following points should be considered when setting up/equipping a honey house:

The building should be:

- Secure and free of domestic animals and pests. It should be bee/wasp proof.
- An adequate size for current and anticipated future scale of production. Space requirements should take into account the need for comfortable working space as well as the need for storage space for supers, honey extraction and handling equipment, honey storage containers and jars.
- Easily accessible for delivery of supers and collection of finished product.

Internally there should be:

- Walls and ceiling with washable smooth sealed surfaces (washable kitchen paint will suffice).
- A floor that is impervious, preferably smooth and easy to clean, ideally sloping towards the door.
- Adequate ventilation with guards fitted to prevent bee/wasp entry.
- Adequate lighting to avoid shadows in the working area. Lights should be fitted with covered fittings to avoid the risk of glass contaminating honey in the event of breakage.
- Hot and cold potable (drinking) water with suitable cleaning facilities for people and the equipment involved.
- Adequate electrical power points to avoid having cables stretched across the floor – consider all electrical items likely to be used – extractor, heating cabinet, dehumidifier, radio etc.
- Free of hazardous substances – the honey house should ideally only contain honey related items. There should be provision to safely store any waste material and hazardous substances such as cleaning agents or disinfectants. Such items should be stored at low level to minimise risk of contaminating work surfaces or honey.

The honey extraction, bottling and storage areas should be maintained in good structural condition and kept clean.

The grounds adjacent to the honey house should be free of material/vegetation that may act as a breeding place for/harbour rodents, insects and/or other pests.

Any queries please contact:

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