



Observation Honeybee Hive

Hive Safety

Outdoor Signage

All Honeybee Hives come with a sign to be posted near the beehive entrance on the exterior of the building. This helps alert visitors to the fact that there are bees in the area. Also, it helps to remind people about not using harmful chemicals, especially near the Observation Hive.

Indoor Signage

Post the Safety Rules document near the hive for easy reference by all who visit the hive. Proudly display your BeeCause plaque highlighting the number of your school on our mission to 1000 schools.

Bee Entrance

For the Observation Hive, the bees enter and exit on the outside of the building. If you are outside, please stay clear of the entrance. Bees need about 4 to 5 feet of clearance before they fly up towards the sky! It is a good idea to give them a safe, 10-foot perimeter so that their flight is uninterrupted.

Also, bees only live six weeks in the Spring and Summer; so, there are 100s of bees dying on the way back to the hive or inside the hive. There will be times when a number of bees will be within steps of the landing porch. They will not be in a state to sting; however, if the bees are handled, then the chance a sting will occur is great.

Swing Arm

This feature is integral in the purpose of the Observation Hive. When moving the hive, be sure to do so with care. Slowly rotating the hive for better observation is welcomed. Avoid swinging the hive quickly or with a jerky motion, and never hang on the hive.

Bees inside the Classroom or Office

The hive case is a sturdy and secure container. Bees cannot fly out, climb out, or chew out. In the rare incident where a bee may have found its way into the building without using the bee entrance, you may gently place a cup over the bee and slide a piece of paper between the cup and surface on which the bee landed. The bee may then be transferred outside.

Bee Etiquette

The honeybees are very busy, and for the most part, will not notice you near the Observation Hive. Please keep it that way. Strong vibrations or very loud noises may agitate the bees, and in order to protect the hive, they may sting someone outside. Help the bees feel at home by providing an environment void of extremes in temperature and noise.

A Bee Sting

If you do get a bee sting, make sure the stinger is removed as quickly as possible as the venom from the stinger will continue to pump into the skin. A fingernail or credit card can be used to effectively remove the stinger. Bentonite Clay or Baking Soda will help soothe and reduce swelling. A cold compress will also relieve some of the pain. Do not rub or scratch the site, as this will produce more histamine, which causes itchiness and swelling. Evidence of the sting will disappear in a few days.

**IF YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO BEES,
USE YOUR RECOMMENDED TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY!**

“I hadn't been out to the hives before, so to start off she gave me a lesson in what she called 'bee yard etiquette'. She reminded me that the world was really one bee yard, and the same rules work fine in both places. Don't be afraid, as no life-loving bee wants to sting you. Still, don't be an idiot; wear long sleeves and pants. Don't swat. Don't even think about swatting. If you feel angry, whistle.

Anger agitates while whistling melts a bee's temper. Act like you know what you're doing, even if you don't. Above all, send the bees love. Every little thing wants to be loved.”

— Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*