

New Westminster Beekeeper's Association  
19 Things to Know about Beekeeping  
Module 10 – Removing honey, Extracting, Separating wax from honey

This module was prepared for members of the New Westminster Beekeeper's Association and are intended to be augmented by hands-on experience in the bee yard.

## Summary

1. Removing honey from the hive considerations
  - a. Remove during the day when most foraging bees are out of the hive
  - b. Remove quickly so as not to leave the hive open to robber bees
  - c. Remove the honey from the yard immediately to prevent robbing
2. Methods of removing honey
  - a. Brush
  - b. Bee escape board
  - c. Tipping
  - d. Fume board
  - e. Blower
3. Extracting honey using centrifugal force (spinner)
  - a. Remove cappings
    - i. Scratching fork
    - ii. Heated knife
    - iii. Needles - On a roller, or a plate
4. Extracting honey by crushing comb
5. Separating wax from honey
  - a. Mesh bag/ Fruit press
  - b. Settling over time

## Methods of removing honey

### Bee brush

- Use short, quick brush strokes
- Do not roll bees up in the brush bristles



## Bee Escape Board

- One way valve to allow bees to enter the brood nest
- Leave on for 24 to 48 hours
- May need to still brush out stubborn bees



## Tipping Method

- Also called 'Abandonment Method'
- Only works during a strong honey flow
- Almost always some bees stay in the supers
- Tip the combs back 4 hours later, or at night, or in the morning
- Super-fast, and the most predominant method used by commercial beekeepers



## Fume Board Method

- Common 30 years ago
- Foul smelling bee repellent used to drive bees out of the honey super
- Almond extract synthesized
- Still used today but not as common as tipping



## Bee Blower

- Used by all beekeepers with 50+ colonies
- Used in August to force bees out of honey supers during a dearth
- Super-fast (~10 seconds/box)



## Removing Cappings using a Fork/Scratcher

- Slow but deadly accurate
- Wastes the least amount of beeswax
- Used by many beekeepers up to 10 colonies
- Scratch in all directions



## Removing Cappings using a Hot Knife

- Slow and neater than scratching
- Tends to cut too deep destroying drawn comb
- Faster than scratching



## Removing Cappings using Needles

- Fairly new method
- Wastes least amount of wax



## Extracting Honey by Crushing Comb

- Only method up until the invention of the centrifugal extractor
- Nylon bag is best
- After crushing out honey, hang bag for 3-5 days to remove rest of the honey
- Very good method !!



## Extracting Honey using Centrifugal Force

- Honey extractors of all sizes from 2 frames to 120 frames
- Hand crank or motor driven
- Efficient, but tends to be expensive
- Recommend to REMOVE BOTTOM DRAIN VALVE to prevent stripping gears



## Separating Wax from Honey

- Nylon bag or Screen to remove big pieces (very slow – hours)
- Settling to remove small pieces (incredibly slow – days)
- Mechanical pump through 60 micron filter for CFIA approval (3 gallons/minute)



## Honey Pump and Filter

- Not usually used by beekeepers
- Mostly used by honey packers



end