



Installing the BeeAware! Bee House



1. Your BeeAware! bee house should be placed against a flat surface and located in an area protected from high winds. Find a secure place like the side of shed, fence post, or tree. However, *do not hang it from a string or wire*.
2. The front of the house should have a south or southwest exposure where it will get the most sun in winter to keep bees warm (bees are cold blooded and use the heat from the morning sun to get flying in the morning).
3. Make sure the bee house is at least 3-4, preferably 5 feet from the ground to deter ants and other predators.
4. It is best to have the front of the house angled slightly downward so that any water that may get in the house will run out. Nesting tubes should be ~1/2" inside the houses' edge.
5. Situate the house close to pollen-producing plants (they won't travel farther than 300 feet), as well as a good supply of claylike mud to cover up their nesting holes.



After bees mate, the female places eggs in the nesting tubes. Each egg is separated by nectar and pollen. It is at this time that the bees' pollen-gathering also pollinates plants.

After the pollen and nectar is placed, the female places a mud plug in the tube (hence the term "mason"), then repeats the process with more eggs, pollen, nectar and plugs. When the tube is full, she finishes with a heavy mud plug and her work is done.

In the spring, the mature bees emerge from the tubes. Males exit first. Females emerge after males because the eggs are placed deeper in the tubes. This is a protective measure, assuring a good female population to help keep the species going.

6. Optionally, if you are concerned about squirrels or birds in the area, you may want to protect the house with chicken wire. Choose bird wire or hardware cloth with 3/4" openings and loosely create a 3" bubble around the front of the house. *Do not install the wire flush against the nesting materials because this keeps bees from being able to get in.*



References:

- <https://masonbeesforsale.com/pages/bee-information>
- <https://crownbees.com/>