



REMOVING BEES FROM HOMES AND BUILDINGS

A swarm of honey bees often will enter a building and start a nest between the studding in the outside walls. Bees in a location of this kind are usually difficult to dislodge. Depending upon *how long the bees have been present*, several procedures might be used to remove or destroy them.

1. Destruction of a Newly-Established Swarm

When bees have only been present for a short while, there will be little or no brood and honey to complicate the problem. Under such conditions, simply blow as much malathion or Diazinon spray or dust as possible into the openings in the wall. Later, *all openings in the wall should be carefully plugged with bee-tight material* to make sure that another swarm of bees does not enter the wall in another season. One can treat the swarm during the night when it is cool and the bees are relatively inactive. The job can be done during the day if a bee veil and a pair of bee gloves are available for protection. Other insecticides could be used, but malathion and Diazinon are probably the most readily available.

2. Removal of a Newly-Established Swarm

A local beekeeper may be interested in obtaining a newly-established swarm of honey bees to form a hive colony. He can remove the bees without opening the wall by using a bee escape,

a small one-way passage unit which lets bees out, but not back in. The bee escape is placed over the entrance to the wall, using a suitable bee-tight material to form the exit tunnel and seal the edges. Sheet metal can be used on wooden walls and plaster of Paris will form a seal which the bees cannot gnaw through on a masonry wall. A hive containing a frame of emerging brood, a frame of honey, and several empty frames is placed with the entrance near the exit to the bee escape. Within a few weeks, the entire swarm from the wall will be established in the hive. Requeening the colony with a new queen usually completes the operation.

3. Destruction of an Established Colony

A colony of honey bees which has been established in a wall for a season or more will contain a considerable amount of honey and brood material. If the bees are killed with an insecticide, the deteriorating brood may produce a disagreeable odor for some time. Honey may seep out through interior walls or drip from the top of a door frame. Do *not* kill bees in a wall unless there is a way to get the brood and honey out afterwards.

4. Removal of an Established Colony

To remove an established colony of honey bees from a wall, one must remove the siding and other exterior structure. Then the combs and

bees can be cut and brushed from the interior of the wall. You may find a local beekeeper who would be willing to help on the project in return for the bees or honey which are salvaged.

5. Bees in Rooms

Bees in rooms of a house can be quickly disposed of with a standard household aerosol bomb.

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Use pesticides with care. Read the label on the container and follow the directions carefully.

Never smoke while applying insecticides and avoid breathing the spray or dust. Wear natural rubber gloves when handling pesticides. Wash hands and face carefully with soap and water after applying. If insecticides are spilled on the skin or clothing, remove contaminated clothing and wash exposed skin areas thoroughly.

Always store pesticides in their original containers, never in fruit jars or soft drink bottles, and be sure that labels remain on the original containers. Keep containers away from food or animal feed and out of the reach of children or irresponsible persons.