

# Parts of the Basic Hive

There are four basic components to a beehive. The bottom board, the supers, the frames and the cover(s). Within those hive components there are many different options to choose from. A common configuration is made using deep supers for the brood chambers and the medium supers or shallow supers for the honey.

**1. Outer Cover or Top-** There are several different outer cover types. The cover seen below is a telescoping outer cover. That means it fits over the inner cover with sides that hang down over the top super.

**2. Inner Cover -** This is a wooden cover that goes on top of the uppermost super. It has an entrance hole to the outside and a hole in the middle. It also has two sides - one for the winter and one for the rest of the year. The inner cover is vital for proper hive manipulation.

**3. Honey Super –** The honey super is a box that holds the frames where the bees will store their honey. The honey supers come in different sizes, usually medium or shallow.

**4. Queen Excluder -** This is a flat rack made of metal or plastic, with holes large enough to allow the worker bees to get through and small enough to exclude the bigger queen bee. The most common use is to prevent the queen from going up and laying eggs inside the honey super. Optional.

**5. Deep Super or Brood Box with frames inside -** These are the heart of the hive. This is where the queen will lay eggs and bees will store honey, and pollen for their use.

**6. Bottom Board -** There are two basic bottom boards that beekeeper's use. The solid bottom board and the screened bottom board. The screened bottom board simply has a screen on the bottom.

**7. Hive Stand -** This is the bottom part of the hive that has an angled landing board for the bees. It is optional but may come with your kit.

**8. Frames with foundation -** These are made for deeps and medium supers. The bees build comb on the frames to store honey, pollen and raise brood. The frames are made from wood or plastic and usually have foundation in the middle. Foundation is made from wax, wax with wire, plastic or a combination.

**Outer Cover**

**Inner Cover**

**Honey supers**

**Queen Excluder**

**Deep Super**

**Bottom Board**

**Stand**



# Langstroth Hive

Outer Cover  
with Inner Cover  
hidden underneath

Medium  
Super for  
Honey

2nd Deep  
Super for  
Brood

1st Deep  
Super for  
Brood

Queen  
Excluder

Slatted  
Rack

Screened Bottom Board

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Slatted Rack – This is an optional piece of equipment that is used to help with ventilation and hive congestion. It gives the bees more room between the entrance and the brood chamber. By raising the brood chamber up higher, the slatted rack allows the bees to get fresh air into the hive easier to cool the hive down in the summer. Since the brood is raised up a bit and protected a little more from incoming winds, the queen will tend to lay eggs all the way to the bottom of the frame more often than without one. The bees also are not as inclined to build ladder comb at the bottom of the frames when using this rack. If you can afford it, this is a great piece of equipment to have, it does not come in a standard kit.

Smoker/Fogger - Optional but handy to have piece of equipment.



Hive Tool - Absolutely need and want a hive tool and its recommended to have at least 2.



Entrance Reducer - This is a small piece of wood which fits between the bottom board and the first deep super. It is used for various reasons including protecting the colony from robbers, for weak hives starting out and sometimes as a mouse guard. However a determined mouse can chew right through it, so a metal mouse guard is preferred.

