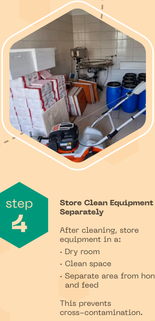

BTHENET Bee Stronger Together

Kit for Beekeepers

GOOD BEEKEEPING PRACTICES | Routine (Preventive) Hygiene Practices

Good Cleaning and Hygiene Practices

Store beekeeping materials, wax, and feed hygienically to prevent contaminations

When storing beekeeping equipment such as hive boxes and wax frames, the facility must be purpose-built. Equipment removed for winter storage is bulky and requires careful planning. The area must be odour-free and stacks secured to prevent animal access and contamination of wax and boxes.

step 1

Store Equipment Properly

Keep beekeeping equipment, tools, wax, and feed in a:

- Dry place
- Clean environment
- Ventilated area
- Dust-free area
- Pest-protected storage

Avoid moisture and contamination.

step 2

Clean Tools After Every Use

Use clean water, soap or suitable cleaning agents.

Remove residues of honey, wax, pollen, propolis.

Take special care of tools like hive tools, uncapping forks and knives, extractors and sieves.

step 3

Disinfect When Needed

Regular disinfection helps reduce the spread of pathogens.

Especially recommended for shared equipment, processing tools, storage containers and surfaces.

step 4

Store Clean Equipment Separately

After cleaning, store equipment in a:

- Dry room
- Clean space
- Separate area from honey and feed

This prevents cross-contamination.

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step 5

Store Wax and Comb Material Correctly

Store combs, wax, and foundation sheets in cool and dry conditions.

Always separate healthy comb material from mouldy or infected combs (e.g. Nosema contamination).

step 6

Store Honey, Pollen and Feed Safely

Honey should be stored in sealed, stainless steel containers, food-grade plastic containers or glass jars.

Pollen should be stored in a dry, dark, and sealed place (e.g., in glass or vacuum-sealed bags).

Keep the honey and feed away from chemicals and contaminated materials.

Recommended storage temperature for honey: 10–20°C and for feed: 4–10°C.

step 7

Personal Hygiene

Good hygiene protects both bees and bee products.

Use clean gloves, protective clothing and aprons.

step 8

Pest control

Regularly check storage areas for wax moths, mice, or ants.

Use pheromone traps or metal screens if necessary.

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