

Bumble Bee Box Assembly Instructions

Step 1: Cut the following pieces from a sheet of 3/4" plywood

Front: 7" x 4"

Top: 7" x 7"

Base: 7" x 7.5"

Back: 7" x 4.75"

Sides: 6" x 4" (x 2)

You will also need:

Hinge (~2- 2 1/2 inch)

Small hinge screws

Approximately 12 – 1 1/2" deck screws

A wad of cotton

Drill and #2 Robertson drill bit

3/4" or 11/16th drill bit for drilling entrance hole.

Step 2: (Ideally) find a partner.

Step 3: Find the base (the largest piece) and the front (use the dimensions above to determine which piece is which). Have your partner hold these two pieces together while you carefully drill two screws from the base into the front piece.

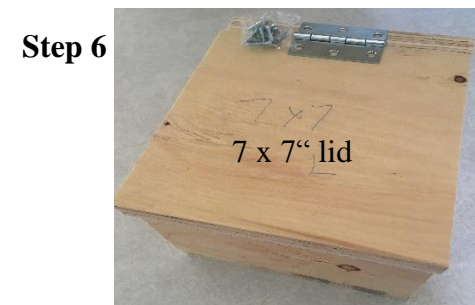
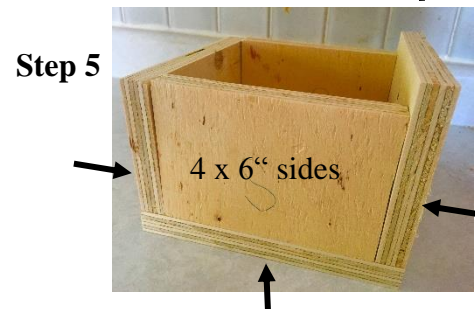
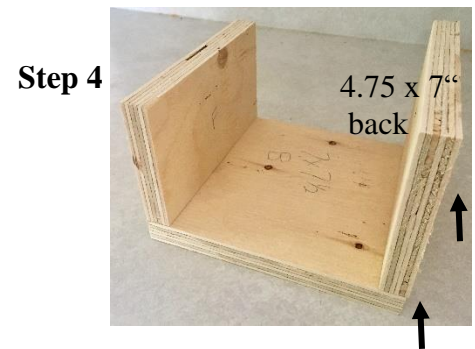
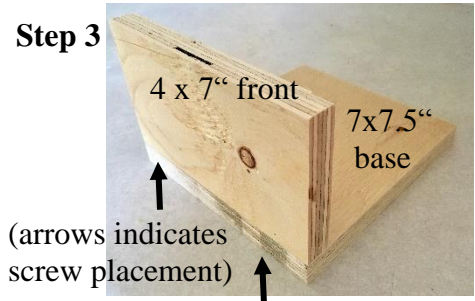
Step 4: Find the back piece and secure with screws from the base into the back (this piece is taller than the sides and front).

Step 5: Find the side pieces and secure by drilling screws from the base into the side pieces. Also screw the front on either side to the side pieces.

Step 6: Attach the top piece to the back with the hinge.

Step 7: Drill a ~16-18 mm hole in the front of the box; this is the entrance hole for the bees! (Note: any larger hole could render the colony box vulnerable to rodents).

Step 7: Place a thick wad of cotton in the box (splitting it in the center like a hamburger bun or folding it over like a taco such that in either case the center is at the entrance hole).



Placing your Bumble Bee Box

Put your bumble bee box out in the spring as soon as the snow melts.

You can place the nesting box on the ground, under the ground (with a 2.5 cm diameter tube to the surface), or attached to a tree or fencepost. A sunny location that receives afternoon shade is ideal.

For nesting boxes that will be placed on the ground, elevate with two small scrap pieces of wood. Dimensions of 7" x 1" work nicely.

Cover the top with vapour barrier plastic or secure it in a location where it is protected from rain.

Paint your bumble bee box with non-toxic latex paint (painting can be post-poned until fall if you're building for this spring's bees)!

Become a Citizen Scientist and Help Us Monitor Bumble Bee Populations!

To participate in the Alberta Native Bee Council's Bumble Bee Box Monitoring Program:

1. Build a bumble bee box!
2. Download a bumble bee box registration form at albertanativebeecouncil.ca or email: BBBMonitoring@albertanativebeecouncil.ca for more information.
3. Monitor your bumble bee box and report activity to the Alberta Native Bee Council. An annual reporting form can be found on our website.

For more information contact: info@albertanativebeecouncil.ca; check out our website: www.albertanativebeecouncil.ca; or our Facebook page.