

Omlet




beehaus
The art of keeping bees

Welcome to the magical world of bees

Bees are probably the most fascinating and certainly the smallest food producing animals you can keep at home. With their highly developed social structure and absorbing behavior, beekeeping should be known as the eighth wonder of the world.

Now, you can enjoy the amazing experience of beekeeping in your

own garden or even on your rooftop. The new beehaus from Omlet makes keeping bees and collecting your own honey easy and rewarding. Inspired by the way bees live in the wild and building on the classic principles of beekeeping, you will find the beehaus a delight to use.

If you've ever thought about keeping bees then Omlet can help you get

started. We can provide you with everything you need - including dedicated support and advice.

There is nothing better than spreading thick, delicious honey onto a slice of piping hot toast - except when it's been collected by your very own bees.

We hope you enjoy this brochure.

James, Johannes, Simon and William



The beehaus is available in 5 fantastic colours. It comes with everything you need to start keeping bees.

Essential facts about bees

It's estimated that at any one time there are around 1 trillion bees in the world providing an indispensable pollinating service. Bees are essential to the production of over a third of the food we eat every day.

Are all bees the same?

There are lots of different species of bee, such as bumble bees, mason bees and carpenter bees. Honeybees are the only ones which live in large colonies of up to 60,000 bees. The most commonly kept breed is called *Apis Mellifera*, meaning honey-carrying bee.

Who's in the hive?

The Queen - is the head of the bee colony, whose sole purpose is to lay eggs and produce new bees.

Workers - are all female but are unable to reproduce. They are incredibly productive - cleaning, feeding and flying hundreds of miles to collect nectar, pollen, water and propolis for the hive.

Drones - are male bees whose one purpose in life is to mate with the queen, after which they die.

Why do bees swarm?

A successful colony will grow and become large and so the bees may decide to split and create another colony. Swarming is a natural occurrence but a skilled beekeeper can avoid a swarm by splitting the colony in a controlled way.

Do I need permission to keep bees?

No - unless you plan to keep them in a communal area such as an allotment. Many people already keep bees in the country and in urban gardens.

Bees in your garden - honey on your toast!

Keeping bees is amazing

A colony of bees is a wonderful addition to your garden. They are interesting to keep, provide an invaluable pollination service and make honey.

Learning to keep bees

The main role of the beekeeper is to assist the bees and the basic skills required to do so are easily picked up. The beehaus comes with an comprehensive guide and you can also go on a course to learn more.

Spending time with your bees

During the spring and summer you need to spend around an hour a week with your bees. This is your opportunity to see the inner workings of the hive. You can inspect the bees and look through the frames of comb that the bees make and live on.

These frames, called brood frames, tell you alot about the condition of your colony. Bees eat both pollen and honey and you can see the amount they have stored in the cells. You can also see how well the queen is laying and use this information to decide whether you need to add more frames so the queen has space to lay. Watching your bees at work is truly inspiring.

Fun for all the family

Beekeeping is a hobby that everyone can enjoy. Children will love getting dressed up in a beesuit, find inspecting the hive brilliant and will particularly look forward to collecting honey!



Looking at the frames of comb that the bees live on is a fascinating part of beekeeping.

Around 50 jars of honey a year

Naturally your bees wouldn't expect to be able to live in such magnificent accomodation as the beehaus rent free. You can collect an average of 50 jars of honey per year. The amount depends largely on how quickly your colony grows after the winter hibernation and the weather during the rest of the year. Warm, sunny days are ideal for bees to forage for nectar to make the honey.

Omlet can supply everything you need including bees!

You can order your beehaus complete with everything you need to get started including beesuit, gloves and a starter colony of 10,000 bees. Omlet bees must be preordered and we will match your requirements with our list of available bee colonies in your local area.

Making honey with a beehaus is as easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Flowers

Bees collect nectar from flowers in the spring and summer. To fill a single jar of honey your bees will make over 20,000 journeys!



Bees collect nectar from flowers.

2. Comb

Bees turn the nectar into honey by reducing the water content. They then cap the stored honey with wax ready for when they need it in the winter.



They store the nectar in the comb.

3. Honey

Because of the advantages of living in a beehive, your bees will store more honey than they need. You can harvest the extra honey in the autumn.



Honey - your reward for keeping bees!

The beehaus - a modern, easy to use beehive

The innovative, new beehaus

The beehaus is specially designed for keeping bees in your garden or on your rooftop. Developed to provide your bees with a safe, modern home in which to live it makes beekeeping straightforward and fun.

Triple insulation

The beehaus has innovative all-round triple pocket insulation to help keep your bees warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This is important as bees need to maintain a stable 35°C in the hive. They control variations in temperature by vibrating their bodies to generate heat in the winter or, if it gets too hot in the summer, by using their wings as fans to circulate air.

Space for the whole colony

Modern bees need more space than they did in the past because queens have been bred to be more prolific egg layers. The beehaus uses deep National brood frames (14"x12"). This simplifies inspecting your bees and is less disruptive to them compared to being housed over two smaller frames in two brood boxes. Consequently, your bees will be calmer and easier to work with.

The beehaus is two hives in one

The brood box has two entrances - one at either end. There is enough space to accommodate 22 frames, which is double the number of frames in a traditional National hive. In Spring, when the queen is laying at her maximum rate, your bees will be rapidly expanding in number. The

Healthy bees

The beehaus is quick and easy to clean. The smooth plastic surfaces can be disinfected to ensure a hygienic home for your bees. The handy inspection tray helps you spot any problems early.



The inspection tray catches debris.



The beehaus comes with four 'supers' - these contain the frames that the bees use for storing honey and can be easily removed for harvesting.

extra space in the beehaus allows you to either a) Expand the hive as a single colony or b) Divide the hive in two and start a second colony. This is an established method of reducing your bees' urge to swarm.

A protected entrance

The entrance has a sheltered landing area that makes it easy for your bees to land and walk into the hive. The beehaus comes complete with a wasp guard which restricts the entrance helping the bees to defend the hive against wasps. The wasp guard can be turned around and used to temporarily block the entrance, for example if you are moving your bees.

Good ventilation

The mesh floor ensures your bees have good air flow within the hive. It also

allows debris and mites to fall out and this helps keep your bees healthy.

Light, modular honey storage

The beehaus comes with four 'supers' for the bees to store honey. You place these boxes on top of the hive in the spring when the bees start collecting nectar. The supers use a standard National Super frame. However for easy handling, the beehaus' super boxes are half the size and weight of a traditional super box.

Comfortable working height

The beehaus is raised off the ground on sturdy legs. You don't have to bend to lift heavy boxes as you do with traditional hives. Having the top of the hive at a convenient height and with space alongside to rest tools makes the job much easier.

Air flow and insulation

The beehaus has triple layer insulation to help the bees maintain a constant temperature in the brood. While the mesh floor provides draught free ventilation for the bees.

Light and easy to move

All parts of the beehaus weigh less than 7 kilos and are at a convenient height for lifting. This means you can enjoy time with your bees without straining your back.



Ventilation promotes healthy bees.



A full box of honey weighs 7kg.

How does a beehive work?

Bees need a warm, secure and dry place to live. In the wild, bees make their nest in a variety of places such as hollow trees and holes in rocks. The beehive was developed to make it easier to manage a colony of bees and collect honey. There are lots of different hive designs throughout the world, which follow the same basic principles. The guide below explains the different parts of a hive and their function.

Outer Lid - This protects the hive from the cold, wind and rain. It provides year round insulation.

Supers - The supers are used by the bees to store honey. A colony will store honey throughout the summer in preparation for the winter. If your bees are successful they will have surplus honey which you can harvest for your family and friends. Your beehaus comes with 10 super frames with wax foundation sheets

Brood box - This is the colony's home, the place where the bees live and where the queen lays her eggs. These large frames are called 'brood frames'. When inspecting your hive these are the frames that you look through. Your beehaus comes with 11 brood frames with wax foundation sheets.

Entrance - The hive has an entrance to allow the bees to come and go. The entrance is sheltered from the wind and rain. It leads to an inner hive entrance which is large enough for the bees to bring in nectar and pollen - but small enough to defend easily.

Entrance block and wasp guard

The beehaus comes with a stainless steel entrance block useful for temporarily closing the hive. The wasp guard turns your hive into a fortress that the bees find easy to defend.



Entrance block is quick to fit.



Insulation - Bees need to maintain a constant temperature to raise their young.

Cover board - These seal the main body of the hive and keep the bees in.

Frames - The frames hold the wax foundation that the bees build the comb on.

Mesh floor - The hive floor is made of mesh. This ensures your bees always have fresh air and allows debris and mites to fall out of the hive.

Inspection tray - This is located under the mesh floor of the house. It catches any mites or debris that fall from the hive which you can then examine to learn about the health of your bees.

Stand - A good hive stand should bring the working height of the hive up to waist height to reduce the effort of handling the parts of the hive.

Sterilisation - You can disinfect a beehive (plastic or wooden) to protect against diseases using common disinfectants such as bleach or Virkon. See Beehaus guide for details.

Dimensions - The beehaus is 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.9m high.

Two hives make a beehaus

The beehaus is twice as big as a normal hive and has an entrance at both ends so you can divide the hive and start a second colony without having to buy a second hive.



Double the space of normal hives.

Secure and weatherproof

The lid and honeyboxes are held securely to the base of the beehaus by a strong cord which is quickly fastened at each end of the hive.



The lid is secured with a cord.

Designed to suit your garden or rooftop!

Town and country gardens

You can keep bees whether you live in a town or the country. Bees are kept very successfully in urban gardens and rooftops where they forage in gardens and parks. Urban honey has a delicious flavour from the wide variety of plants available. In the country bees can collect nectar from crops, orchards and wild flowers.

Choosing a spot in your garden

An ideal spot in a garden is against a hedge or fence to protect flying bees from the wind and rain. You should position the hive entrance so that the bees can fly in and out in a straight line. A quiet spot in the garden away from frequently used paths is best.

Up, up and away

Bees normally fly above head height at about 5m above the ground. You can encourage your bees to reach this height quickly by placing a hedge or fence a couple of meters in front of the hive - see picture below.

Rooftop beekeeping

If you live in a town and have a flat rooftop this can make a great spot to keep your bees. They can fly in and out of the hive undisturbed and will have a great view.

Neighbours

If you have neighbours it's a good idea to let them know you are getting bees. They will most likely be interested in and supportive of your new hobby, especially if they get a jar of honey and their flowers pollinated.

Looks wonderful in your garden

The beehaus will bring your garden to life. Its compact shape means that finding a suitable spot is easy and the large range of attractive colours will suit any garden.



A beehaus completes your garden.



The beehaus makes rooftop beekeeping practical and fun.

Bees, pets and children

Bees will not bother other pets such as chickens, cats or dogs unless they disturb the hive. Although it's great to involve children in beekeeping you should always supervise children near the bees.

Looks great in your garden

Available in five fantastic colours you can keep it traditional white, be bright and sunny in yellow or blend into a garden with a beehaus in green.

Flying high

If you have neighbours then you can encourage your bees to reach their normal flying height quickly by planting a hedge or placing a fence approximately 2m in front of the hive.



Bees will fly upwards quickly.

Support always on hand

The service and support that Omlet provides you has been designed with the same care and attention to detail as the beehaus. The guide that you receive with the beehaus gives you a comprehensive introduction to keeping bees.

The Omlet website is a great way to find out more and with helpful support always on hand you'll soon feel like an expert.

Flight path

Bees will fly up to 3 miles in any direction from the hive in their search for nectar. This covers an area of almost 30 square miles!



Your bees will cover a large area.

How to order your beehaus

The beehaus comes as a complete hive ready for you to keep bees.



Choose from these five fantastic colours: white, green, red, yellow and purple



4 Supers

Each super holds 5 frames - enough to store approximately 7 kgs of honey.



4 Cover boards

These fit on top of the supers and the hive to seal the bees in.



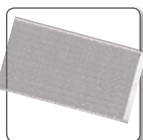
2 Clearer boards

These are used to empty bees from the supers or feed the bees.



Frames

11 deep National brood frames and 10 National super frames - including wax foundation.



4 Queen excluders

Stops the queen laying eggs in the honey supers.



Hive divider

Converts your beehaus into two separate hives.



2 Hive blockers

Use to shut the entrance to the hive or provide protection against wasps.



Mesh floor

This ensures your bees have fresh air all year round.



Inspection tray

Shows up anything that drops out of the hive.



Beekeeping guide

A complete guide to keeping bees packed with useful advice.



4 Honey jars

Still taking wine to dinner parties? Your own home made honey is much more exclusive.



Your guarantee

If you are not entirely satisfied!

£465 Delivery **£20**

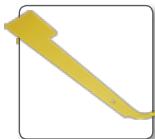
beehaus starter kit

Comes with everything above and the following essential items:



Full Body Bee Suit

- professional suit with veil is comfortable and makes you feel safe when you're with your bees.



Hive tool - makes opening the hive and lifting frames a doddle and will give you years of reliable use.



Gloves - top quality rubber gloves with gauntlets give you confidence when working with your bees and can be washed.



Liquid Smoker

- keep your bees calm with 250ml of concentrated liquid smoke and a 600ml atomizer.

£495 Delivery **£20**

Ordering bees

The supply of bees is seasonal and their price may vary between £80 and £150 depending on the colonies available.



Bees are typically supplied on six frames which you can put straight into your beehaus.

We will match your requirements with our list of locally available colonies and you can then pick your bees up when it's convenient for you.



Phone us now to reserve your bees on **0845 450 2056**.



Between **£80 - £150**

Call 0845 450 2056 or order online at www.omlet.co.uk

Omlet Club

As a beehaus owner you will have access to the Omlet Club on the Omlet website. The club has several areas including a forum, a gallery and a library of Omlet Newsletters. It's a friendly, hugely enjoyable and lively community where people with lots of experience of keeping bees can share tips and advice with people eagerly waiting for their first honey.

You can upload your bee photos in the Gallery and you can put names to faces in the "meet the owners" pages. With well over a thousand members there's never a dull moment in the Omlet Club!



See more photos at club.omlet.co.uk/gallery

Bee keeping courses near you

You can learn first hand how much fun it is to keep bees on these fantastic new courses. Each course is run by an experienced beekeeper and they range from short taster courses to advanced courses. It is a great opportunity to try out a beehaus. On all the courses you'll learn how to handle a frame of bees, how to spot the queen and gain useful

skills such as estimating the colony's stores of pollen and honey. You can also ask questions such as where in the garden is most suitable for your beehaus and what type of plants your bees will prefer.

A course will give you the knowledge and confidence to get started. Courses are run all over the country where you

can learn about keeping bees, see a beehaus in action and, if you're lucky, have a slice of toast and honey!

If you already have bees and would like to run a course or are interested in attending one, call **0845 450 2056** or have a look online at www.omlet.co.uk/courses



Look online to find and book a course near you.



A sign on the gate lets you know you're at the right house.



See a beehaus and experience the wonder of bees.



A chance to ask any questions and perhaps enjoy some honey.

A wide range of bee keeping equipment for you to buy online

Jam jars... suits.. tools etc

Omlet's online shop can fulfill all your beekeeping needs. You'll find a wide range of carefully selected equipment that will make working with your bees a pleasure. All the products we stock are tried and tested by beekeepers!

Harvesting honey can be a sticky business but we have the right equipment to make it quick and easy.

You can also choose from a selection of gifts which make brilliant presents for someone who is thinking about or has just become a beekeeper.

We have a carefully edited collection of the best books available on bees. The Buzz about Bees by Jurgen Tautz has stunning photographs and some new insights into bee behaviour. Ted Hooper's classic Guide to Bees and Beekeeping should be on every beekeepers bedside table.

Whether you're harvesting honey or enjoying a cup of tea after looking at your bees the Omlet shop has everything you need. You can buy extra frames for your beehaus, beesuits for all the family, traditional smokers, glass jars and much more.



Frames and foundation



Accessories



Bee gifts



Books

Visit www.omlet.co.uk/shop to see the full range.