

FILLING THE PADS IN THE FIELD

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1. DO NOT REMOVE THE PLASTIC WRAP FROM THE PADS.



2. Set up a pad-prep station down wind in the yard.

3. Cut pads along the 4 inch dimension into the required length and place them, with the cut-evaporating surface down, to fill the soaking basket.

Put on safety equipment, gloves, and respirator.

4. Place the basket into the soaker pail.

5. Close the soaker pail and fill the pail full of acid through the hole in the lid until pads are fully submerged.

6. While the pads you just cut are soaking, remove respirator and gloves and prepare the whole yard for pad installation by removing the outermost comb and the comb next to it out of the top box and by cleaning the wall of the hive body.

7. When the yard is prepared, put respirator and gloves back on and move basket with pads into the dripping pail.



8. Cut up more pads, place them in a second soaking basket, and then put them in the soaker pail filling the pail with acid through the hole in the lid.

9. Take the basket of filled pads out of the dripping pail to the prepared hives and install them by attaching the pads to the outside of the outmost comb with capped honey or the hive body with a nail, toothpick, paperclip, or staple in each corner of the pad.

10. Place the comb with the pad into the hive first, gently pressing the pad against the wall of the hive body using the comb, then insert the remaining comb into the space left.

11. Repeat this process until the yard is done.

12. Strain and pour unused acid back into the keg, replace the tap with the proper plug, wash all acid laced equipment before leaving for the next yard.

13. Incorporate the treatment into pollination preparation or spring / fall check; the additional work treating 40 hives will take only 30 min.

14. **DO NOT REMOVE THE PADS.** In the case of high inside hive humidity or low temperatures, treatment will cease. Treatment will resume when evaporating conditions improve. The bees (or the beekeeper) will remove the pads when convenient at the next visit after treatment and the pads are dry. Propolised pads and partly wet pads should be unwrapped and put on top of the frame to provide additional Blast Method treatment.



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A. MiteGone pads: Take a box of pads with you into the yard – do NOT pre-cut, pre-fill, or unwrap the pads.

B. 65% formic acid in a transport approved keg with a tap. During transport, the tap should be removed and a proper plug be used on the keg.

C. A knife: A very sharp knife with spare blades.

D. A cutting guide: A small, sturdy, cardboard or wood box with a slot to guide the knife. To help cut the pad into even pieces, “guide lines” can be drawn on the box according to the length of the pad required based on the evaporation rates and length of treatment selected (see “Treatment Selection” and “Other Uses and Cuttings of Pads”).

E. Two soaking baskets: Any rectangular plastic container where pads will stand with the cut-evaporating surface down. Punch or drill holes into the bottom of this container so the acid can easily enter or exit the basket.

F. A soaker pail with a lid: It is important that this bucket be the correct size. The basket with the pads standing in it needs to fit into the pail. The lid must prevent the pads from floating so they soak up the acid fast. Cut a small hole in the lid so the acid can easily be tapped into the closed soaker pail.

G. A dripper pail: Pail with a plastic riser placed on the bottom so that when a basket full of pads is removed from the soaker pail, the remaining excess acid can drip out of the bottom of the basket. The excess acid can then be poured back into the soaker pail.

H. First Aid / Water: Two large buckets of clean water and a plastic pitcher to dilute the acid in case of a spill. The first pail should be open and the second one closed in case the first is spilt.

I. Safety equipment: While using acid it is very important to follow all safety procedures and wear a respirator, goggles, rubber gloves, rubber boots, and rubber pants worn under overalls. **Read the “Safety” section.**

J. Support box: with screwed lid and guides to hold round kegs.

Pad Prep Station – Safety and Maintenance

- Acid station is brought home at each transport, rechecked, rewashed, and refilled with clean water
- No acid or pre-filled pads to be transported in pails
- All acid must be back in the keg with proper lid without tap
- Pads soaked and unused are transported in plastic bags in metal box. Better: Count and soak only what you need so you do not have to transport pre-filled pads
- Always put gloves on glove drier
- Never open extra gloves without replacing them immediately after returning and ordering new ones
- Gloves that develop leaks are removed and marked with the hole at the rim if it is still usable for another task such as cleaning or painting.

Materials

- Support box (inner box in it)
- Inner box to contain:
- Glove drier
- Spare gloves
- 2 pairs gloves being used
- Knife and blades
- Cutting board
- Philip's screw driver
- Oil filter wrench
- Rag for tightening lids
- Keg of acid
- 2 pails of water
- One clean closed
- One containing washed pails
- Soaking buckets
- Pitcher
- Funnel