



Pierco Plastic Frames and Foundation

When introducing brand new undrawn, non-waxed Pierco plastic frame and foundation to your bees, use methods described on this page:



For a higher rate of acceptance and faster comb building – BEFORE installing frames/foundation:

- 1) Dip plastic foundation area into sugar-water or honey-water solution, fully coating foundation area. NOTE: Once coated, keep foundation area clean and try to install frames/foundations within 10 days of dipping.
- 2) You can also place sugar-water or honey-water mix in plastic squeeze/spray container. Spray new Pierco foundation area as you install the Pierco frames/foundation in your hives.

Basic methods for Pierco Plastic Frame/Foundation Introduction

It is difficult to give one basic method for new Pierco Frame/Foundation introduction that will work well worldwide during the different seasons of the year. This is due to the many different weather conditions, the varied floral sources, and the differing intensities of nectar flow.

Below are two introduction methods being used successfully:

1. New Pierco Frames/Foundation can be interspaced with drawn comb. For best results run 10 frames/foundation in your standard 9-frame super. Insert three new Pierco frames/foundation in the 3, 5, and 7 positions (you can go as many as 5 and 5). The reason for going with 3, 5 and 7 positions is that sometimes the bees will be slow to draw foundation on the outside of the super. We recommend feeding the bees heavily until the flows begin so they start drawing new comb immediately. NOTE: If after using the above interspacing method, the bees seem to ignore the new Pierco frames/foundation while pulling the drawn comb further; do not panic just use the alternate method explained below.
2. Replace the drawn comb with new Pierco, so that you are now running 100% new undrawn Pierco frames/foundation. Any undrawn Pierco frames/foundation with brace or burr comb can be scraped clean with a hive tool and returned to the super. This approach gives the bees no choice but to go to work and draw out the Pierco foundation. It is wise to feed heavily with sugar water or syrup at this time to stimulate comb building. Some people place a drawn comb on each end of the super as bait comb. We are finding



more and more beekeepers are having excellent results through the method of introducing a full super of up to 10 new undrawn Pierco frames/foundation, instead of alternating with drawn comb.

Do not be disappointed if at first you have a little trouble getting your bees to accept and draw new Pierco frames and/or foundation. Try variations of the above methods, be creative and remember colonies should be strong and healthy. It is difficult to get bees to draw new comb if they are under any stress, also, colonies must be on some type of flow, be it a natural nectar flow or artificial (sugar or syrup). They CANNOT produce wax without having some type of carbohydrate coming in.

NOTE:

DO NOT leave Pierco frames/foundation in direct sunlight for a prolonged period of time

DO NOT put Pierco frames/foundation in solar wax melters

DO NOT place Pierco frames/foundation in boiling water