**Steps to install a 20 Frame Insulated Hive**

1. Setup Stand
   1. If you’ve purchased a Wild Hives stand.
      1. Determine a location for the new Layens hive that is both respectful to your neighbors and beneficial to the bees.
      2. Likely sites would have morning and afternoon sun. This can help reduce pests such as small hive beetles. Some dappled shade in the late day can also help the bees manage summer temps inside the hive.
      3. Assure you level the stand side-to-side and front-to-back. The Layens hive entrances are slanted downward which will help shed rain.
      4. If you have more than one hive you will want to angle each one so that the entrances are not all in one direction. This will increase the chances of returning workers finding the right hive.
      5. Using individual stands for each Layens hive allows more versatility in how you setup your backyard apiary. Hives can be placed where and how you want them rather than strictly in a line as you see with other methods. One thing to remember is to assure you have convenient access to all hives from the back and that you are not blocking the entrance of another hive when working.

One benefit of a Layens hive stand is how easy it makes to accessing and inspecting you hive. Part of this is because of the standard height of 19” on all stands Wild Hive produces. At this height back fatigue is reduced by placing the frames right at your fingertips at a normal counter or workbench height.

* 1. If you are setting up your own stand.
     1. You may decide to build your own stand or use other materials such as cinder blocks and landscaping time to create a bench.
     2. When setting up your own stand assure you consider the sunlight and other considerations mentioned above.
     3. Build your stand/bench at around 19” height. This has a couple benefits of reduced back fatigue and putting the hive entrances at a height where animals such as skunks and racoons need to stand on their back legs exposing their sensitive underbelly to the bees.

1. Install Layens Hive
   1. With your hive stand in place sit the hive on the stand so that the edge all the way around is slightly overhanging the stand. The stand is made so that rain will drip off the side of the hive without hitting the top of the stand. This keeps the bottom of the hive and stand drier.
   2. Decide which side of the hive you will install your colony and open that entrance completely.
   3. If the weather is cool, you can close the other two entrances. As the weather warms up and you enter summer begin turning these entrance disks to the venting holes.
   4. Inside the hive don’t add more frames than you and the bees need. The more unguarded empty space there is in the hive the opportunity for pests to enter and take over. There is a balance between over overcrowding which along with significant available resources that can stimulate swarming and a hive that is full.
   5. Ensure you partition off the empty space of the hive with the provided divider board assuring the ¾” legs are pointing downward to allow for good ventilation.
   6. Place the lid back on and let your bees get to work in their new home.