

Equipment Reservations

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"Honey Blossom" Cover photo Courtesy of National Honey Board



PRINCE WILLIAM
REGIONAL

Beekeepers
ASSOCIATION™

Promoting Responsible and Sustainable Beekeeping

**Honey
Extraction Equipment
Policies and Guidelines**

Prince William Regional Beekeepers Association owns honey extracting equipment: a manual 9 frame Maxant extractor, an uncapping hot knife and uncapping tank. **The extracting equipment use is FREE for the use of members only.**

Members borrowing the equipment will need to provide their own food grade 5 gallon honey bucket(s) to be placed under the extractor's honey gate.

Accountability and Care

- The use of this equipment is a benefit of membership and is for *member use only*.
- Do not pass the equipment around to other beekeepers without prior approval, as you as the borrower are responsible for its condition.
- Handle with care
 - Dents and scratches reduce the life and performance of the equipment.
 - Protect all of the equipment from damage and excessive wear.
 - Please report any mechanical problems **IMMEDIATELY**.
 - The hot knife is extremely sharp and can get VERY hot ...use with care.

Damaged equipment costs are the responsibility of the member borrowing the equipment.

Borrowing Guidelines

Due to high demand there is a maximum *two day* borrowing period. Equipment due back by 7 PM the last day of your turn.



Picking Up and Returning Equipment

Scheduling/Reservations – Contact our equipment wrangler as listed on the back of this brochure. Equipment pickup time and location will be provided when reservations are confirmed.

- Due back by 7 PM of last day of use unless prior arrangements made.
- Please do not be late picking up or returning.
- The extractor is relatively large and moderately heavy. It comes in three pieces: the drum and two lids. The hot knife has a stand and box. Please return complete.

Cleaning Equipment

The extractor and the knife must be cleaned and returned in working order. They must be returned clean and free of debris, dirt, honey, and wax as a courtesy to the next user.

How to Clean

- **Do NOT disassemble the extractor to clean!**
- **Do NOT** use cleaning detergents as any residue will contaminate the honey.
- **Do NOT** submerge the knife in water or put it through your dishwasher!

- **DO Rinse** extractor and decapping tank thoroughly with **VERY HOT** water. Then spray with diluted bleach and water solution inside and out.
- **Rinse thoroughly again!** Return dry. (Bleach will dissipate when dried and aired out). The hot knife should be UNPLUGGED and warm for wipe down only.

- Return equipment as clean as when you picked it up.

Tips and Recommendations

Consult your mentor if you are new to extracting.

Seek out online video instructions for harvesting and uncapping/extracting. There are many short videos on the internet, some better than others.

Brushy Mt. Webinar has a comprehensive video from on harvesting and extracting (about 1.5 hours long!) @ http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/downloads/21July09_HarvestingExtracting.wmv

Be aware, the extracting process can be deliciously sticky and joyfully messy. It is recommended that your extracting area and supplies are setup in advance so you are organized and don't run out of time.

Be mindful that you are working with a food product and should be working in a clean area to prevent contaminating the honey.

Line the floor with a large sheet of plastic. Have a small dish pan type container available with warm water and a towel.

In lieu of using a cappings tank, use your own makeshift cappings tank; this will aid in clean up time.

The hotter the extracting area, the quicker the honey will extract from the frames (particularly important with our manual hand crank extractor).

Extract in an enclosed *bee free* area to prevent robbing frenzies. The bees **WILL** find you in **VERY** short order if you are outside!

Be mindful of extractor's honey gate position. The gate should always be open when extracting. **Always have a bucket under the honey gate!**

Moisture content – it is advised that you extract honey frames that are fully capped to ensure the honey's moisture content is correct (unless you have access to a refractometer).

Small Hive Beetle – remove honey no more than 2 days before extracting to avoid SHB eggs from hatching in the honey frames (this will spoil the honey!)

Keep an eye on the honey bucket level so as not to overflow.

If you intend to keep your wax cappings, freeze the wax to kill potential wax moth and SHB eggs.

Extracted honey comb is very valuable...protect it wisely ... Return it to the bees for clean up and reuse.

