

Beepods Basic Siting Guidelines

These guidelines are the basics behind placing your beepod in the best place for you to manage and maintain a healthy hive. For more guidance, email us at info@beepods.com

1 SiteMap: We find it useful to grab a satellite image off google maps of your property. You may also just draw a simple diagram of your property, including neighboring properties. Highlight sidewalks, walkways, roads, structures, trees, gardens and ponds, pools or rivers. Then add doorways, walkways, windows and decks around your house. Pay attention to opportunities for viewing from inside the house. Also think about how much (or little) you want the public to see. As a general rule, and occasionally enforceable guideline, we discourage you from placing the Beepod in your front yard. Next draw an arc denoting the sun's path across your property.

2 Workspace: You'll need room to work the bees comfortably. Always have at least a 3 foot space on at least two sides to work the bees— remember, you shouldn't stand in front of the entrance to work.

3 Flightpath: Bees will create a flightpath to the entrance much like planes landing at an airport. If you are concerned about pets or children, you can direct the bees to go up by placing a barrier no less than 3 feet from the entrance. A shrub or fence will be fine. The bees will learn to go up and then out to pollinate.

4 Sunlight: Select a sunny to partly sunny place to site your Beepod. Morning sunlight is best for the bees, it gets them warm and off to work early. If you can give them some afternoon shade it's helpful, but not required. Try to position the Beepod entrance to receive southern exposure—again, not required, but helpful.

5 Water Source: Bees require water, and will locate the nearest source. It is best for you to provide bees with a source of water on your property, rather than them finding your neighbor's bird bath. If your property has a pond or river located close to the hive this may be enough. If not, or if it is far away, we recommend adding a water feature. This can be as simple or complex as you like as long as it has the following features: fresh water, and a flotation device. Bees cannot walk on water, so you will need to provide a landing spot for them. In our apiary, we use a large bucket with corks floating on top. Easy, peasy.

6 Ground Surface: Site your Beepod on a flat, dry surface. You can place it directly on your lawn though it's best to place the legs on a solid surface. If you choose to put it on your lawn, you'll need to trim the grass by hand underneath and around it. We recommend using pavers, bricks or ceramic tiles to create a full footprint under the Beepod. Feel free to place it on a slab or a deck. Six 2x2 pavers and paving compound is the easiest way to achieve a flat, level surface for your Beepod.

7 Site Rejection: Bees will form a colony in a hollow tree, a house wall or a rock cave, so they aren't too particular about location as much as the dwelling space itself. Site rejection is the first kind of swarm you can get with your bees. Rejection comes from sites that are too damp, windy, shaded or frequented by insects, etc. Select a site that's dry, has adequate ventilation and sunlight. The bees will leave from the Beepod if they don't find the conditions in the cradle to their liking. This isn't too common, but it is possible.