



## HOW TO CLEAN

# YOUR SHARED EXTRACTOR

Cleaning your extractor is important, it is an expensive piece of equipment, and you want to keep it in good condition. More importantly if you are sharing extracting equipment there is the risk of transferring dirt and disease. **Frames and comb can spread disease.** You should not let bees clean out an extractor as it increases the risk of disease being transferred. Some extractors may come with specific cleaning instructions but if you no longer have them, you can follow this double or triple wash method. A single wash is the bare minimum.

**Double wash** Recommended if using shared extraction equipment.

1. Ensure you have emptied most of the honey by tipping the machine to get the dregs out. It helps if the room is warm. Use a honey paddle to help it along.
2. If the extractor has a ball bearing and motor protect them from water.
3. Most extractors have removable cages which you can wash separately.
4. Wash one. Level and fill the extractor with cold water and leave overnight with the honey gate shut or hose it down thoroughly ensuring the honey gate is clean. If you used warm water initially it would melt the honey and wax & make it difficult to remove.
5. If using a hose pipe but make sure there is no stagnant water in it as in warm temperatures this risks Legionella being spread.
6. Wash two. Give the extractor a second wash with water. This time you can use a washing up liquid or a soda crystal solution and a non-abrasive cloth.
7. Rinse several times. If the extractor is fully free from wax, propolis and honey the chances of spreading disease, decreases.
8. Dry thoroughly with either a hairdryer, dry cloth, paper towels or leave overnight to air.
9. Store in a dry clean place.

**Triple wash method.** Recommended if there is any concern or local outbreaks of disease.

A solution of soda crystals, with a ratio of one kilogram of soda crystals to four and a half litres of water, will kill European Foulbrood (EFB). This solution, however, will not kill American Foulbrood (AFB). To kill AFB spores, a third wash with a solution of one part bleach to five parts of water is needed. Bleach containing at least five percent hypochlorite should be used. After using this bleach solution, a thorough rinsing is needed to remove the smell. **If beekeepers suspect, they have AFB or EFB in their apiaries they should not use shared equipment and it is recommended that the frames and honey are destroyed.**

### References

<https://beekeepingtrove.com/how-to-clean-a-honey-extractor-step-by-step/>

<https://theapiarist.org/extractor-cleaning/>

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>

[https://dcapub.au.dk/pub/planteavl\\_88\\_329.pdf](https://dcapub.au.dk/pub/planteavl_88_329.pdf)

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