

Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society

HONEY EXTRACTOR #1 with blue metal tripod stand

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The Society has spent a lot of funds in repairing and maintaining this extractor, which was originally a donation. It is therefore crucial that it is looked after and used correctly by those members who hire it.

1. Currently the Equipment Coordinator in charge of the extractor hire is Simon Jagger in Maidenhead. When you collect the extractor for your hire period, if necessary, please ask for a quick demonstration to check it is serviceable and clean. When you return the **cleaned** extractor to him, he will inspect it for usability and cleanliness. Any damage found upon handover will be charged to you.
2. A handover signature sheet will be provided in a folder that will be kept with the extractor and these instructions.
3. When moving the extractor, be very careful not to knock the honey tap or the speed controller – they stick out!
4. Before use, make sure the wing nuts on each side at the top of the extractor are tight and securing the metal work. Also check the honey tap is turned off!
5. It is very important when loading the extractor to balance the frames. The easiest way to do this is to find the 3 lightest frames in the super – usually the outer ones – and place one in the first slot of each of the 3 sections in the cage.
6. Make sure the frame lug fits into the slot in the bottom of the cage.
7. If there is any granulated honey in the frames, it will not extract and will make the whole extractor unbalanced and vibrate wildly. When granulated, you will need to cut out the comb and melt it down.
8. If extracting more than 2 supers, be careful that the honey in the tank does not reach the bottom of the cage.
9. Turn the power switch on and then start the cage spinning manually with your hand. Whilst it is still moving, gradually turn the speed dial until the motor is slowly moving the cage – about ¼ power.
10. As soon as you see the honey hitting the walls, you can increase speed gradually, working up to full speed. Take your time doing this. Too fast, too soon will cause comb to break or the extractor to unbalance.

11. When cleaning the extractor, undo the wing nuts on either side at the top. Remove the bolts and do not lose the washers and nuts. Lift the cage and motor out of the tank completely. Ensure that no water goes anywhere near the motor and speed controller – place them out of the way of the tank whilst cleaning.
12. The body (plastic tank) of the extractor is easily washed with a hosepipe on the outside and on the inside with a **non-abrasive** kitchen cloth. Start by using cool water, which will aid in the removal of wax and propolis. Then use warmer water to dissolve any remaining honey. Detergent is not really necessary, but if any is used, please ensure that it is well rinsed off.
13. The cage needs wiping down with a kitchen cloth or plastic scourer to remove wax and especially propolis. Pay special attention to the lug holders, where propolis typically collects.
14. Drain, dry and reassemble the extractor and leave it absolutely clean for the next hirer.
15. If anything goes wrong, **DO NOT** attempt a 'fix yourself' or tamper with it. Instead, notify Simon Jagger or any member of the committee and we will deal with it.

If you have any doubts or questions regarding the above procedures, then please call Simon Jagger (mobile: 07800 662208) or any committee member for advice.