

Bee Rescue Guide



Bee Positive!

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Bee Rescue



The very best way to help bees is to plant bee friendly plants that are rich in pollen and nectar so that they have access to food, but sometimes you might come across a bee that is struggling and want to help.

If the bee has been caught in the rain and looks soggy and bedraggled simply providing shelter can help. The bee needs a place to rest and dry off before it can fly again. Try placing it in an empty flower pot (or something similar) turned on it's side so that the bee can shelter from the storm but easily fly away when it is ready.

If the bee is on the ground in early spring it is likely to be a Bumblebee Queen. They emerge from hibernation to mate and look for a place to nest at this time of year. Recent research from

Queen Mary University of London has shown that these Queens spend the majority of their time resting on the ground between very short flights. These bees do NOT need help, they just need you to let them be. They are likely to rest for 30 to 45 minutes.

If the bee is on the ground later in the year it could be a tired bee and might be in need of a little help. The simplest and best solution is to place the bee in a nearby flower where it can rest and restore itself. We have found tired bees to be gentle but as they might be distressed use a leaf, a twig, a spoon or your sleeve to lift the bee safely to the nearest bee friendly flower.

If there aren't any flowers nearby you could try giving the bee a few drops of sugar water. Sometimes this quick energy boost is enough to help the bee on it's way.

Prepare sugar water using a ratio of 1 part sugar to 1 part water - you only need a few drops so $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of white sugar mixed with a $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of water should be more than enough.

Offer the bee a few drops by placing it near the bee on a teaspoon, or a bottle top, or dip a flower in the sugar water and offer that to the bee.

Don't offer honey to tired bees. Bees should only consume honey that comes from their own hive and don't leave sugar water out for bees, it should only be used as a last resort energy boost.

You can however provide hydration. Bees drink nectar from flowers but they also need sources of water, especially in hot weather. Prepare a simple bee waterer by filling a dish with pebbles and topping it up with water. The pebbles give the bees a safe purchase to drink from.

There are various posts suggesting that marbles are a good alternative to pebbles but we found wet marbles to be very slippery and therefore somewhat perilous to bees in combination with water, so stick with pebbles.

Further resource from the bumblebee conservation trust

[Sugar water](#)