



# Beekeeping Equipment Startup Costs

Estimated costs of for the first and second year of keeping honey bee colonies. The prices provided are representative and will vary based on where you purchase your equipment. Pricing as of December 2024.

## Notes on Beekeeping Equipment Costs

- **Used Equipment:** Avoid purchasing used hive equipment for your colonies—particularly beeswax comb—due to disease and pesticide risks. However, used extracting equipment can be safely purchased.
- **Second-Year Equipment:** If you plan to split a surviving overwintered colony into two, you will need an equivalent amount of hive equipment for the additional colony.
- **Long-Term Costs:** The per-colony cost decreases over time since most equipment only requires replacement if damaged or when older frames are rotated out.
- **Honey Extraction Options:** You may be able to rent honey extraction equipment through a local bee club, another beekeeper, or hire someone to extract.
- **Pricing:** All listed prices refer to *assembled* and *painted* hive boxes.

General Beekeeping Needs	Year 1	Year 2
Smoker	\$35	
Smoker fuel, wood shaving animal bedding	\$6	\$6
Hive tool	\$11	
*Bee Suit	\$126	
Veil & hat	\$30	
*Leather bee gloves	\$11	
*Leg straps	\$20	
Permit, depending on location	\$10	\$10
*Local beekeeping club membership	\$10 – 35	\$10 – 35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$248 – \$329</b>	<b>\$26 – \$51</b>

Healthcare Needs per Colony	Year 1	Year 2
Sugar syrup (20–28 pounds of sugar per package of bees and sugar for spring feeding in year 2)	\$20 – \$28	\$20
Pollen substitute, 2 pounds	\$14	\$14
Treatment for varroa mites	\$43	\$86
Mite testing equipment	\$40	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$117 – \$125</b>	<b>\$120</b>

<b>Hive Equipment Per Colony</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
Hive stand	\$20	\$20
Bottom board & entrance reducer	\$33	\$33
Telescoping & inner cover	\$52	\$52
3 deep hive bodies each with 10 frames & foundation	\$240	\$240
Moisture board	\$16	\$16
Winter cover	\$41	\$41
Feeder pail	\$6	\$6
Queen excluder, metal	\$12	\$12
2-4 medium supers each with 10 frames foundation	\$140 – \$280	\$140 – \$280
Empty hive body for protecting the feeder pail	\$18	\$18
2 or 3 pound package of bees	\$188 – \$200	\$188 – \$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$770 – \$922</b>	<b>\$770 – \$922</b>

<b>Honey Harvesting and Extracting Equipment</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
Bee brush	\$9	
Empty super box (to put honey frames into during harvesting)	\$18	
Two spare inner covers (to place under and over harvested honey boxes)	\$34	
Capping scratcher	\$8	
*Uncapping knife, heated	\$100	
Stainless steel strainer	\$30	
Uncapping bin	\$60 – \$200	
One 5-gallon food safe bucket	\$10	\$12
One 5-gallon food safe bucket with honey gate	\$40	
Extractor	\$120 – \$2,200	
Jars for honey, six flats of 12-pint jars	\$78	\$78
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$515 – \$2,535</b>	<b>\$90</b>

\* Suggested but optional expense

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,670 – \$3,911</b>	<b>\$1,006 – \$1,183</b>



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