

# ALBERTA NATIVE BEE COUNCIL

## Bumble Bee Box Assembly Instructions

### OPTION 1: Plywood

**Step 1:** Cut the following pieces from a sheet of 3/4" of untreated plywood

- Front and back: 7" x 4" (x2)
- Sides: 6" x 4" (x 2)
- Base: 7" x 7"
- Top: 7" x 7.5"

You will also need:

- A small hinge (~2.5")
- Small screws and drill bit to fit – these often come with the hinges
- 12 x 1 1/2" deck screws
- A wad of raw cotton (can be found on amazon.ca)
- A drill and #2 Robertson drill bit  
3/4" or 11/16" drill bit for drilling the entrance hole
- 1/8" drill bit for drilling pilot holes (optional)

**Step 2:** Find the two sides and the front and back. Arrange in a square. Place the base on top (Image 1) and with the help of a partner, drill two screws into each of the following: the back piece, then the two side pieces and then the front. Don't worry if it doesn't align perfectly. Those gaps are great for airflow (Image 1).

**Step 3.** Attach the top to the back piece with the hinge. This part is tricky (Image 2).

**Step 4.** Use your 3/4" or 11/16" drill bit to drill an entrance hole. Splinters will fly! Please have someone securely hold the box while drilling and ensure everyone is wearing eye protection.

**Step 5.** Place a wad of raw cotton in the box sufficient to fill the width/length of the box. Gently split the center of the cotton like a hamburger bun such that the center is at the entrance hole (Image 3).



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

### Option 2: Spruce or Pine Fence Boards

**Step 1:** Gather one 1" x 6" and one 1" x 8" spruce or pine boards. Note that 6" boards are actually 5.5" and 8" boards are actually 7.5" wide. Cut the following pieces:

- Sides: 5.5" x 4" (x2)
- Front and Back: 7.5" x 4" (x2)
- Top: 7.5" x 8"
- Base: 7.5" x 7.5"

**Step 2:** Assemble as with Option 1, but when assembling this box, notice the direction of the tree rings in the wood. Over time, this wood can warp so ensure these rings are arching in such that the box continues to seal itself. IMPORTANT: this wood is prone to splitting. Always drill pilot holes when using these boards.

**MAINTENANCE:** In the fall: remove all nest contents and wipe the inside and front of the bee box with a ~70% bleach solution and paint or re-paint the box. The box can be left outside for the winter.

### Become a CITIZEN SCIENTIST

To participate in the ANBC's bumble bee box monitoring program:

1. Build a bumble bee box!
2. Register your box with the ANBC. See: [www.albertanativebeecouncil.ca](http://www.albertanativebeecouncil.ca).
3. Monitor your bumble bee box and report activity to the ANBC. We will send a reminder email in the fall. If bees nested in your box, let us know and place the nest contents in a zipper seal bag and store in the freezer. We will come pick it up from you!