

Two stages:

1. Remove the old queen (and queen cells)
2. Introduce the new queen by method that works for our hot climate.

Find and pinch the queen at least 2 hours before introducing new queen, but best for me is 2 days, but many people do after only one day of the colony being made queenless.

Usually about 5 attendants in the cage. **Do NOT release the attendants.** I don't care who you are or what you think, but always smoke your colonies even when introducing queens or just to take a peek after introduction. Never skip a gently, soft, cool smoke before opening up your colonies.

Queen needs to be placed near where the most nurse bees are covering a large amount of brood. Usual near the top central area of your brood box frames (not on bottom of hive, not on bottom bars, not halfway down, but just below top bars. The cage is pushed laterally (horizontally) with the screen side down just below top bars and pressed firmly into the brood comb then squeezing together to hold cage in place. Remove do everything gently, slowly, with care... gradual movements. Don't do anything that blocks the bees ability to feed through the screen... don't install screen facing comb, but instead facing an opening or bee access space.

Keep a record or mark your hive in a way you are sure of the date of introduction. Many believe it should remain undisturbed for a full week and only check after a week. I break those rules and have success checking the progress after 3 days even though there may be some fear of causing the colony to reject the new queen if you disturb them too soon. I just like making sure that they are chewing the candy or still chewing on the screen instead of feeding the queen. I may discover a missed queen cell or even a virgin queen crawling around.

So far with the C. F. Koehnen queens we ordered for the club I am batting 1000. 3 for 3. 3 queen installed and 3 marked queens in the colony. Still not out of the water, because if I missed a queen cell the new mated queen will not always kill the supercedure cells before the queen emergencies and they could prefer that queen over the already released and accepted queen.

Opinions are all over the place on what is the perfect method. I listen to people like C.F. Koehnen's recommendations and of course fall back on my own experience. I don't believe things that don't make sense, because to me if they don't make sense, they usually don't work for me.

There are other methods that take more work and you may wish to try... such as queen introduction cages, but I am comfortable with my success rate of requeening.

Candy plug is about a 3-day timed release. Sometimes they don't get through the candy; however, I don't recommend arbitrarily just always poking a hole through the candy. If the candy is soft and easy to chew and you poke a hole through the candy then they will chew through too quickly and kill the queen.

DO NOT REMOVE ATTENDANTS (It is not necessary... and I never release them, ever)

Cage releasing positions (Note all these are done just below the top bar and pressed into the comb).

1. **Most Common:** Vertically, Candy down, but if it gets too hot the candy can melt down and out and the queen can get released too soon, therefore, I don't use this any more after having lost a few queens and attendants drowned in the melted candy.
2. **Never Do:** Vertically, Candy up especially here in hot Florida. I've had the candy melt down onto attendants and queen... drowning them. So do NOT install with the candy at the top.
3. **Best (or preferred): Horizontal, Laterally, Screen side down: Pushed into comb just below top bar, then squeeze adjacent frame to hold it in position. You can see this method in the above video at 13 minutes into the video.**

Now... Here is what [C. F. Koehnen](#) recommends for their queens shipped in the 3-hole wooden cages:

"Before you attempt to install a new queen, make sure your hive has been queenless for at least 3 days. If your hive has a resident queen, remove and destroy her. Within a day or so of becoming queenless, your hive will probably begin to build queen cells (you may already have some in your hive if it has been queenless for some time, or your queen is failing). These should be destroyed before your new queen is introduced. ... If you install the queen too early the workers will most likely not accept her, and kill the new queen.

The candy tube is designed to take 48 hours to chew through, and thus, allows 48 hours of introduction before your queen emerges (**do NOT poke a hole in the candy**, as it will cause the queen to release too early, and the workers will kill her). During this time the workers will become accustomed to the new queen.

Installing: After your hive has been queenless for sufficient time, remove the cork on the candy side of the cage (there will be a cork at each end but only one will have candy blocking it). You do not need to remove the worker bees from the queen cage. You'll probably need to remove one of the frames temporarily to fit the queen cage in the hive. Place the cage about 1 inch from the top with the candy side about 45 degrees down, near the center of the hive. The workers will chew through the candy over a period of 48-72 hours and the queen will release.

After installation: Leave the hive undisturbed for a few days after installing the queen. Check to make sure she has left the queen cage. If she is still in the cage it is safe to directly release her. The empty queen cage can then be removed (and the frame replaced if you pulled one out). In about 4-8 days after she emerges, you should begin to see eggs. The time it takes for her to lay can vary depending upon the condition of the comb inside the hive and the weather." [C. F. Koehnen & Sons, Inc.](#)

Much more info can be found at: <https://www.basfbees.org/queen-installation.html>