

# The Easi-steam

Old brood combs have often been quite a challenge to many beekeepers: What and how on earth do I deal with these old, brown & brittle combs? The Easi-steam is the perfect answer.

- Based around a simple wallpaper stripper the device quickly and efficiently renders old comb down into its component parts of beeswax and cocoon.
- The steam generator (3 litre capacity, 1800W, 1.5m length of electric cable) is attached to a galvanised steel cover via a brass coupling and 3 metre length of steam hose.
- This cover fits snugly over your own national brood box (make sure the steam inlet is not directly over a frame). The steel tray and grid are placed on a standard floor (not supplied) and the wooden eke placed on top of the floor. The brood box with old frames and steel cover are placed on top of the eke. Ideally the complete unit should be on level ground and tilted forward slightly to facilitate wax collection. It is a good idea to raise the hive just enough to fit a collecting tray under the outlet.
- Switch on the steam generator and wait. After about 20 minutes wax and water will run out of the front of the hive. Leave running for 15 minutes and then wearing gloves carefully remove the steel cover and see if the frames are clear of comb. If they are, remove the brood box and lower the steel cover over the eke, this will give a final blast of steam to the cocoon and comb still left on the steel grid. A further 5 minutes should suffice in reclaiming any remaining wax.
- Switch off the generator and leave the wax and water mixture to cool. The wax will float on top of the water produced by the condensed steam. The empty frames can now be scraped of any remnants of cocoon or wax that will have lodged on the bottom bars of the frames. The majority of the cocoon will be on the mesh base and can be discarded or composted. The frames should virtually be totally free of wax, all that will remain is propolis.
- The Easi-steam has not only extracted the wax (approx. 90% by our calculations) but it has also sterilised the frames with temperatures up to 105°C
- NB BROOD BOX AND FLOOR ARE NOT SUPPLIED.
- The beekeeper can use a different floor and brood box every time this process is used or have dedicated equipment for this application.
- DO NOT LET THE GENERATOR BOIL DRY. INSTRUCTIONS THAT COME WITH THE GENERATOR ARE INCORRECT AND THE STEAMER CANNOT BE RESET.



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