

How to start a package using frames with drawn comb.

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If your colony died first check the frames for AFB scale. See the pictures from the Honey Bee Diseases and Pests manual. If you do not have the manual go to <http://z.umn.edu/beemanual> . If you see any AFB scale you should burn all the frames and scorch the boxes, bottom and inner cover.

If there is not AFB scale then you can clean up the frames and boxes by scrapping off any unwanted wax and propolis, brush out the dead bees and clean and paint the boxes.

Make up your boxes for the new colony as follows. If you have capped honey left put 1 or 2 frames on each side of the box (2-4 frames total). Fill the middle of the box with empty drawn comb. You should have a total of 9 frames.

To start a package using drawn combs chose the best of the boxes (cleanest looking comb) as described above. Honey on the outside and 5-6 frames with mostly empty comb in the middle.

Start your package just like you did when you had foundation. If you forgot see the Beekeeping in Northern Climates manual. (<http://z.umn.edu/beemanual>). You should start them with light syrup and pollen patty. If they have a lot of honey you can stop the syrup after 1 gallon. Continue the pollen patty until sufficient natural pollen is coming in. Add the second and third box just like you did with foundation. When the bees are using 70% of the frames in the box then add the next one.