

## Honey Bees

**Size:** Adult workers are 1/2" – 5/8" long.  
Queens 5/8 – 3/4" long.

**Description:**

- Colour is usually orangish brown with black bands on abdomen.
- Body is covered in fine, pale hairs.
- Males of each colony have no stingers.



**Biology and Habits:** The Honey bee is our most complex, extremely large, stinging insect colonies in Ontario. **All efforts must be exhausted to relocate any honey bees nests found in or around our homes.**

Large Honey Bee colonies consist of only one egg laying queen that mates once. She is capable of laying up to 1800 eggs per day and can live up to 5 years. Large colonies total as high as 60,000 bees. The entire colony overwinters and experiences ongoing cycles of bee mortality. On the average workers live 5 to 7 weeks. The queen produces many pheromones which dictate work duties for her colony. These duties range from pollen-nectar gathering, hive ventilation, building hive combs, caring for young, to hive protection.

Homeowners primarily observe Honey Bee swarms that land in a tree or onto the side of your home. In the middle of this swarm cluster is a queen. Covered by thousands of workers protecting her until the queen finds a new hive location. Swarms hanging in trees or shrubs normally rest for 24-48 hours before moving on in search of their new colony location.

**Immediately inquire with local Bee Keepers in your area.** Some Bee Keepers will come and collect the queen and workers or attempt to use another hive below the swarm to relocate the swarm into one of his/her mobile hives. Unfortunately due to some associated bee diseases with wild bees, not all Bee keepers are interested. At this point, homeowners need to make a quick decision. Do you monitor the swarm closely for the 24-48 hour period and hope the swarm moves on to look for new hive location? Or have the swarm professionally eliminated if you feel they are going to enter a wall or attic void in your building? Once the queen and workers enter and establish themselves in a new void, rarely can that swarm be coaxed back out.

**Control:** Ideally, live removal and/or relocating by a professional Bee Keeper is the best solution. If you are unable to get a Bee Keeper your next best alternative is to hire a Pest Control Professional to eliminate the colony before they establish themselves and produce honey in your home wall void. If the colony has been inside your home for more than a couple of weeks, you are faced with wall and/or ceiling removal to remove the dead bees, honey and combs. If you do not remove these materials you will experience abundant insect and rodent activity attracted to this food source and a strong honey and dead bee odor in your home. Costly damages and restoration will result from this established colony.

**BEST SOLUTION CALL *The Spidermen* !!!**