

Note to Reader: The candy board directions outlined below were part of ongoing experimentation and research into northern beekeeper self-sufficiency and overwintering innovation. This approach is NOT recommended due to moisture build-up, which is detrimental to bees. The best candy board that we have used successfully thus far is made by Danny Slabaugh ([download recipe](#)), dslabaugh@embarqmail.com

CANDY BOARDS

INGREDIENTS:

16 LBS. GRANULATED SUGAR
3 CUPS WATER
1 POLLEN PATTY

EQUIPMENT:

2 ½" RIM WITH ½" VENT HOLE AND PLASTIC EXCLUDER NAILED ON BOTTOM. DRILL VENT HOLE WHERE IT WON'T BE COVERED BY YOUR HIVE COVER.

DIRECTIONS:

1. LAY WAX PAPER OR CARDBOARD UNDER EXCLUDER (THIS HELPS PREVENT WET SUGAR FROM SEEPING UNTIL IT HARDENS)
2. PLACE POLLEN PATTY CROSSWAYS (PERPENDICULAR TO FRAMES)
3. MIX SUGAR AND WATER IN A BUCKET OR TUB UNTIL DAMP
4. POUR AND SPREAD SUGAR. LEAVE ENOUGH SPACE ON THE EXCLUDER NEAR THE VENT HOLE SO THAT DURING THE WINTER, BEES CAN EASILY USE THE VENT HOLE AS AN UPPER ENTRANCE (see picture below)

USAGE:

FALL FEEDING: *KEEP VENT HOLE CLOSED* TO PREVENT ROBBING (you can use a cork, dowel, duct tape or whatever you might have to temporarily plug the hole). WHEN INSTALLING CANDY BOARDS, BE VERY CAREFUL TO AVOID SPILLAGE IN THE BEE YARD, WHICH CAN ALSO START ROBBING BEHAVIOR.

WINTER FEEDING: OPEN VENT HOLE FOR WINTER. SUGAR MUST BE DRY AND HARD AT THIS TIME—NEVER PUT WET OR DAMP SUGAR ON THE HIVE DURING WINTER)
(optional: Cut 2 inch square out of excluder below the vent hole for very efficient access to upper entrance)

CHECKING FEED AND ADDING FEED:

YOU CAN CHECK FEEDING NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER BY CAREFULLY LIFTING THE COVER. IF THEY NEED MORE FEED, YOU CAN CAREFULLY PLACE FONDANT OR DRIED SUGAR BLOCKS AROUND THE EDGES OF THE CLUSTER AS LONG AS YOU DON'T INTERRUPT, CRUSH OR OTHERWISE HARM THE CLUSTER.

PARTIAL FEEDING:

YOU CAN USE THE CANDY BOARD FOR PARTIAL FEEDINGS AT ANY TIME OF YEAR BY USING A SMALLER RATIO OF THE CANDY BOARD RECIPE OR BY LAYING FONDANT ON THE EXCLUDER.

