

How to get bees for your top bar hive using a catcher box—part 2

When you catch a swarm using a catcher box, this swarm has to be transferred to the main hive after 2 weeks. Before transferring, you need a smoker, rope incase the hive is too high, a bee brush, a hive tool, and protective equipment. Transferring is best done when the weather is cool and in the evening.

Transferring bees

Start by smoking to calm down the guard bees starting with the entrance and then to the entire hive. During the entire process, be as gentle as possible.

Unwind the rope and lower the catcher box down slowly. After, carry the catcher box to the main hive.

Remove the cover of the main hive and remove 5 top bars. Using a hive tool open the catcher box while smoking. Remove the top bars from the catcher box into the main hive one at a time.

Turn the catcher box upside down and shake it to transfer the remaining bees into the main hive.

Replace the top bars from the main hive into the catcher box and use the catcher box again to trap more swarms.