

This handout is written only as a guide; it is not intended nor shall it be considered a complete set of requirements.

A permit is required to keep, harbor, maintain, possess or otherwise control bees in the City of Eagan.

Beekeeping equipment should not be purchased until the site plan has been approved. Bees may not be purchased until the beekeeping equipment has been inspected and a permit has been issued.

Your permit application must include:

- **The Bee Permit Application form**
- **A site plan of the lot, including:**
 - Lot Dimensions
 - Proposed location of all colony hives
 - Accurate measurement in feet and inches of the proposed location of all colony hives to each of the lot's property lines
 - Accurate measurements in feet and inches from all colony hives to each dwelling unit on all adjacent lots, including any attached garage or deck, patio, swimming pool area, or other outdoor living space of the adjacent lot(s)

CODE REQUIREMENTS

- Ownership: The owner of the bees must occupy the premises for which the permit is issued.
- Inspection: The premises, including the beekeeping equipment, for which a permit is issued shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by the animal control officer or any other city official to determine compliance with this subdivision, other city code provisions and state laws relating to zoning, health, fire, building or safety.
- Transferability of permit: A permit issued hereunder shall be nontransferable.
- A statement certifying whether the property's homeowners' association, if any, prohibits the keeping of bees on the property for which the application is sought.
- Proof of a successful completion of a beekeeping basics course (minimum of 8 hours of class time) through the University of Minnesota Bee Lab, a community education program or a local beekeeper club/association within 12 months of the date of application or proof of 3 or more consecutive years of actual beekeeping experience within 5 years immediately preceding the date of application.
- If a flyaway barrier is required due to the proposed location of the colony hives, the applicant shall submit a detailed description of the material to be used for the barrier and the proposed location, which shall be subject to the City's review and approval before the issuance any permit hereunder.

REGULATIONS

Number of Hives

- The number of colony hives permitted on an apiary site pursuant to a permit issue is restricted as follows:
 - Less than one-half acre: 2 colony hives
 - One-half acre to three fourths acre: 4 colony hives
 - More than three fourths acre to one acre: 6 colony hives
 - More than one acre to five acres: 8 colony hives
 - More than five acres: no restrictions

Hive Location

- Excluding lots that are zoned agricultural or are 10 acres or more in size, no hive may be located in the front yard or the side yard. A corner lot has 2 front yards regardless of the orientation of the primary residence or driveway.
- Hives must be located at least 20 feet from any lot line.
- Hives must be located at least 30 feet from dwelling units, decks, patios, swimming pool areas and other outdoor living spaces.
- The front entrance of all colony hives should face into the property owner's lot.
- If any part of a hive is kept within 25 feet of a lot line or within 35 feet of a dwelling unit, deck, patio, swimming pool area or other living space on an adjacent lot, then a flyway barrier of at least 6 feet in height is required.
 - The flyway barrier must be either a stone wall, solid fence, dense vegetation or a combination, so that honey bees must fly over, rather than through, the material to reach the colony. All flyover barriers must be constructed of high quality, durable material and kept in good condition.
 - If a flyway barrier is created by dense vegetation, then the initial planting may be 4 feet in height, so long as the vegetation reaches a height of 6 feet or higher within 2 years of planting. The vegetation must provide a dense screening from 6 inches above the ground to the top of the vegetation year round.
 - The flyway barrier must run parallel to the lot line for a distance of 10 feet in both directions in front of each hive entrance side; unless the barrier is installed to completely surround the hive(s).
- A flyway barrier is not required for any hive if the lot abutting the apiary site lot is:
 - Undeveloped property; or
 - Zoned agricultural or 10 acres or more in size.
- If, after a beekeeping permit is issued, the lot next to the property lot is developed, rezoned or subdivided to lots less than 10 acres, the permit holder shall install a flyaway barrier if required by City Code.

Hive and Property Conditions

- Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames. The hive body and all frames shall be kept in good repair and in sound and bee-healthy condition.
- Each colony shall be provided with a source of clean water either through the use of a boardman feeder or other non-stagnant, chemical-free water source located on the apiary site.
- All hive or colony debris, including, but not limited to: dead bees, comb wax, burr comb, honey, or propolis, shall be promptly cleaned up and disposed of in a tight fitting waste container or stored indoors and shall not be allowed to remain outdoors, including within any detached structure.
- For each colony hive permitted, no more than one nucleus hive with no supers, is allowed. After the nucleus hive's initial summer season, a total of one nucleus hive for every 2 colony hives are permitted.
- Beekeeping equipment shall be maintained in good repair and condition, including keeping the hives painted if they have been painted but are peeling or flaking.
- No beekeeping equipment or unused hives, frames or nucleus hive boxes shall be stored outdoors.
- Each hive shall be continuously managed with best beekeeping practices to provide adequate and healthy living space for the resident honey bees in order to prevent swarming.
- When bees of a colony exhibit aggressive behavior that is consistently frequent, such as stinging and attacks, the permit holder must promptly determine the cause and correct the cause, including replacing the queen ("re-queening" the colony), if necessary.
- Fruit trees and other flowering trees while in full bloom and any other vegetation that are located on a permit holder's property shall not be sprayed with pesticide or other substance which is injurious to honey bees.
- No queen bees may be reared for the purpose of sale to a third party or sold from the property.
- No colony hive shall be kept or located on any rooftop.
- The permit holder shall comply with the home occupation regulations set forth in the zoning regulations of this Code, with the exception that hives may be visible from the street and activity related to the keeping of bees and harvesting of honey may be conducted within an attached garage or detached accessory structure on the property.

REQUIRED INSPECTION

Animal Control – After the site plan is approved, the City will inform the applicant that the beekeeping equipment may be purchased. An Animal Control Officer will inspect the space for compliance. Once the structure is approved, your bee permit may be issued. Bees may not be onsite until the permit has been issued.

Provide one (1) copy of a site plan, including:

- Lot lines
- Lot dimensions
- Street name
- Address
- Owner name(s)
- All existing structures
- Driveway
- Special easements
- Location of colony hives
- Location of flyway barrier
- Hive distance to lot lines
- Hive distance to other buildings and outdoor living spaces

