



# Bees-on-the-Net

## Bees Left Behind

### Why are there some bees left?

No matter what time of day bees are removed, it's very nearly impossible to removal every single bee when conducting a bee removal. Apart from any bees which escape the capture, there are usually scout bees or foragers away from the hive during the day. When these return they tend to cluster in the place where the swarm had been.

It's very common that clients call us after a few days, they say something like, "The bees are back!" Since the bees were placed in a hive and relocated, probably many miles away, the original bees are NOT back. It's usually just a few bees left behind.

In beehive terms a 'few' bees can be several hundred. In other circumstances it would look like a lot of bees. However since an average swarm will consist of 10,000 – 15,000 bees, a large established colony can have more than 40,000 individuals.

### Will They Build a Hive?

A hive of bees need a queen of course, but even if the queen is left behind after a removal you need not worry. To succeed in building a new hive there also has to be a 'critical mass', a handful of bees cannot survive for long.

To succeed and persist, a colony needs to build combs, collect pollen and nectar, lots of it. The queen has to lay eggs in the newly build cells and the larvae which hatch have to be fed and nurtured with royal jelly and pollen. The colony has to be defended and the temperature regulated.

When building honeycombs, bees cluster together and beat their wings to generate heat, they need to warm the tiny pellets of beeswax before they can build their intricate combs. In small groups they simply cannot create enough heat.

Even a cluster as big as a grapefruit will probably not survive for more than a few weeks, smaller than that will either return to their original location or perish one by one.

If these stragglers cause a nuisance it's probably more humane to finish them off by spraying them with soapy water with a pump-up garden spray.

For more information about bees go to [www.Bees-on-the-Net.com](http://www.Bees-on-the-Net.com)