

A photograph showing a wooden tray filled with light-colored wood shavings. The tray is placed on a white surface, possibly a table or a large container. In the background, a wooden fence is visible. The text "HOW TO MAKE A MOISTURE QUILT FOR BEES" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters on the wood shavings. Below the tray, a white container with a black mesh vent is visible.

HOW TO MAKE A MOISTURE QUILT FOR BEES

Pictures Included For Reference

How to Make a Moisture Quilt for Your Hive

What is a moisture quilt? It is (in my case) a medium super with the bottom covered in canvas, filled with wood shavings and holes drilled in the side for ventilation.

What are the benefits of a moisture quilt? It allows the moisture in the hive to rise up through the canvas, hit the top of the inner cover and fall onto the wood shavings to be soaked up before it has any chance to bother the bees. It also provides ventilation for the hive while providing a layer of insulation to protect against the cold winter weather.

These are the steps I took to make the moisture quilt:

1. **Paint and do any maintenance on the honey super if necessary**
2. **Drill a 1/2" hole on the ends of the super.**
3. **Cut a piece of . Any wire that has holes small enough that bees, bugs and mice can't get through would work. And hot glue the piece over the hole.**
4. **Then cut the canvas to size and nail it to the bottom of the super.**
5. **If it seems necessary, nail Velcro pieces to the bottom of the box. (Nail the other half to the top deep box where the bees are.) This will prevent the lighter box to not blow off. (I found that in my case, the boxes slipped off too easily.)**
6. **Double check that it does fit over the candy board. (On one hive I had to loosen the canvas a bit because the boards of one candy board frame were thicker than the other ones I used.)**
7. **Fill the box with wood shavings.**
8. **Place the candy board on top of the deep super**
9. **Place the moisture quilt over the candy board.**
10. **Put the inner cover on over the moisture quilt.**
11. **And put the lid back on!**
12. **Put a weight of bricks on top to keep the lid from blowing off.**

You can also wrap your hives with insulation. This will give added warmth through the coldest months. The biggest aspect to remember when wrapping a hive is to make sure there is **adequate ventilation, and big enough holes** for the bees to be able to make their cleansing flight to poop on the warmer winter days. They also will clean out any dead bees in the hive and will need a hole large enough for this as well.

