

## New Ant Guide

Thank you for purchasing your colony from Holistic Ants! Below are some useful things you can do to ensure your ants acclimate to their new environment.

**Upon Arrival:** Remove ants carefully from packaging and inspect colonies and housing for casualties, damages, and flooding. They have made a long journey and might be a little stressed. To ensure the colony remains active and healthy, place ants in a dark and quiet place. Bright lights and vibrations can add stress to the colony.

**Moving into Setup:** Moving ants to a new setup is an exciting process and there are different ways to approach it. **Method 1** Slow method: Attach ants in the test tube to the new setup and expose the test tube to light, simultaneously keeping the other setup dark. This can take anywhere from a few hours to weeks for the ants to move on their own. **Method 2** Fast method (Dumping): This method is not preferred, and do so at your own risk. Invert the tube over the nest or outworld and tap the side of the tube until the ants fall out into the nest/outworld. Ensure all workers and queen make it out. If brood/larve/pupae are left behind after tapping, very gently use a damp q-tip to move them manually.

**Feeding:** After the ants have had a few days to settle, you may offer the colony a tiny drop of honey and a small piece of insect for food. Please discard any remains after 48 hours. Small colonies require sugars 1-2 times per week and food once a week in founding stages. If the colony does not have any workers present then refrain from giving food unless it is a semi-claustual queen(will specify if so). Never feed your colony insects from your home or out in nature. These might contain pesticides which can slowly deteriorate your colony. Buying feeders from a local pet shop or dealer is a much safer option. Ants will only eat as much as the colony can consume. Please keep in mind when overfed they may attempt to store food in the nest which may promote mold growth. Tip, placing food and honey onto a small cut of aluminum foil or parchment paper can make cleanup easier.

**Cleaning up:** Ants are typically clean animals and it is important to help them keep their setup clean. Excess food can cause mites and uninhabitable conditions. Remove any food if not eaten within 48 hours. If necessary use water to clean the setup; solutions of rubbing alcohol, bleach or windex will most likely harm your ants! Using q-tips or cotton balls are a good way to clean as you can just dampen it.

**Hibernation:** Like most other insects some ants do hibernate. This is a form of diapause in-which the ants become inactive and production slows down. If ants refuse food for weeks at a time this can be a sign of the need to hibernate. Typically ants hibernate during the winter months. Place ants into a stable environment such as a cool basement or fridge around 40-50 degree F. Duration of Hibernation varies by species.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [contact@holisticants.com](mailto:contact@holisticants.com)

To Be Continued..

