

Varroa mites: propane fogging method

Free resource. [Contributions welcome](http://tiny.cc/bee_help) (http://tiny.cc/bee_help)

Fogging takes the least time with and intrusion into hives. Some beeks even apply fog monthly.

Gear:

- Safety: organic acid vapor filter mask, nitril gloves and goggles.
- Fogger: buy [online](#) or local farm supply.
- Propane tank 1lb

Two solutions to try: (open links for purchase sites)

- [Mineral oil](#) with [Wintergreen](#) drops and
- [Ethyl Alcohol / Everclear](#) (NOT isopropyl / rubbing alcohol) + [Oxalic acid](#) ([larger qty link](#))

Recipes:

- **Solution #1:** Combine 4oz Mineral oil with 3 to 9 drops wintergreen oil graduated to severity of mite population.
Treats 30+ hives.
- **Solution #2: Combine and stir until dissolved** 100 ml warm ethyl alcohol with 25g OA.
Treats 30 to 50 hives.

Solutions will keep in tight-sealed containers in fridge.

Use directions:

1. Seal up hives well leaving only small hole.
2. Prepare solution
3. Light fogger / wait 2 mins
4. Add solution
5. Give test bursts. Must only emit gas. If fluid squirts, let heat up more.
6. Position nozzle a few inches from entrance.
7. Give three one-second bursts.



Timing treatments

Mites in cells are unaffected by treatments. Mite [life cycles](#) makes us:

- treat weekly for 3 weeks if lots of brood,
- cage queen for 2 weeks, release her, wait 6 days, then treat once or
- if there's little to no brood treat once

Need more help, including fog treatments? [Contact us.](#)

Related resources/ considerations

- [3 min fogging demo](#)
- [Transfer gas from 20 lb to 1 lb tanks](#)

Affix a 6" metal tube to fog tip for cooler gas so fogger tip can be just inside hive, delivering all fog into hive.

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