

Killing varroa mites with Oxalic Acid: vaporize method

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



Oxalic acid (what's in wood bleach) can found at True Value like stores. Needs to be 95% + pure. There are online sources too.

Treatment timing

Ideally apply when little to no brood present. Otherwise apply 3 times, 7 days apart.

Safety first

- Wear mask with organic acid filters, eye protection and nitril gloves to prevent contact. Fumes cause lung irritation.

Materials:

- Vaporizer: many models [online](#) or [ask UBAG](#) to vape your hive/s.
- Timer to set for 2.5 and 10 mins.
- ¼ and ½ teaspoon measurer.
- Organic acid filter with mask, eye protection and nitrile gloves.
- Cloth strips to block entrances.
- Coroplast or sticky board sheet to prevent fume loss through screened bottom boards.

Steps

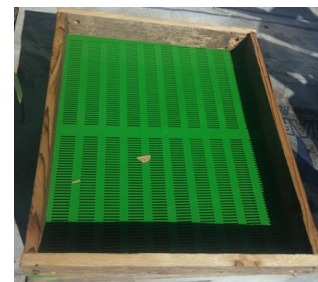
1. **Check brood levels.** If no brood only one treatment needed. If heavy brood do 3 treatments 7 days apart.
2. Slide in fume blocking sheet if using screened bottom board.
3. Add 1 gram / ¼ teaspoon per brood box Oxalic Acid crystals to vaporizer pan. Reseal OA lid to prevent OA absorbing moisture. Two brood boxes require 2 grams / ½ teaspoon. Nuc: ½ a gram / 1/8 teaspoon.
4. Insert vaporizer ½ into hive from front entrance. Entrance won't allow wand insertion? See pg 2.
5. Seal openings with cloths/foam/grass.
6. Connect vaporizer to 12 volt power source for **2.5 minutes** (Maximum three minutes – depends on battery capacity.) You should see wisps of fog drifting off hive at top.
7. Disconnect power source.
8. Remove vaporizer **after 2 minutes**.
9. Reseal hive a further **10 minutes**.
10. Removed cloths / foam.
11. Ensure vaporizer is not hot before vaping next hive. Varro models can be dunked in water. With Varrocleaner or VarroVap, use wet cloth.

Store Oxalic Acid crystals in a **dry air tight** container. **Damp OA takes longer to vaporize!**

Vaping from the top

Make a two inch tall shim that fits your box size with slot at shim's bottom that fits snug for vaporizer rod when it's placed at middle of box.

1. Remove top cover.
2. Place plywood or sheet metal scorch pad a bit larger than vaporizer pan in the middle to prevent scorching frames.
3. Lay filled vaporizer on pad.
4. Put on 2" shim.
5. Replace top cover.
6. Block bottom openings with cloths / foam.
7. Proceed from step 5 above.



2" tall shim laying on propolis trap