

PROCESSING WAX



Fun Facts about Beeswax



Flammable: No (substances that ignite below 100F)



Combustible: Yes (III B combustible material)



What is the flashpoint of beeswax: 400°F



You can expect beeswax candles to burn two times longer than paraffin candles of the same size.

Beeswax melts at about 145° F

An 18 square inch (3 x 6") beeswax pillar candle is expected to burn for as long as 110 hours.



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o **HOW DO WE GO FROM THIS, TO ...**

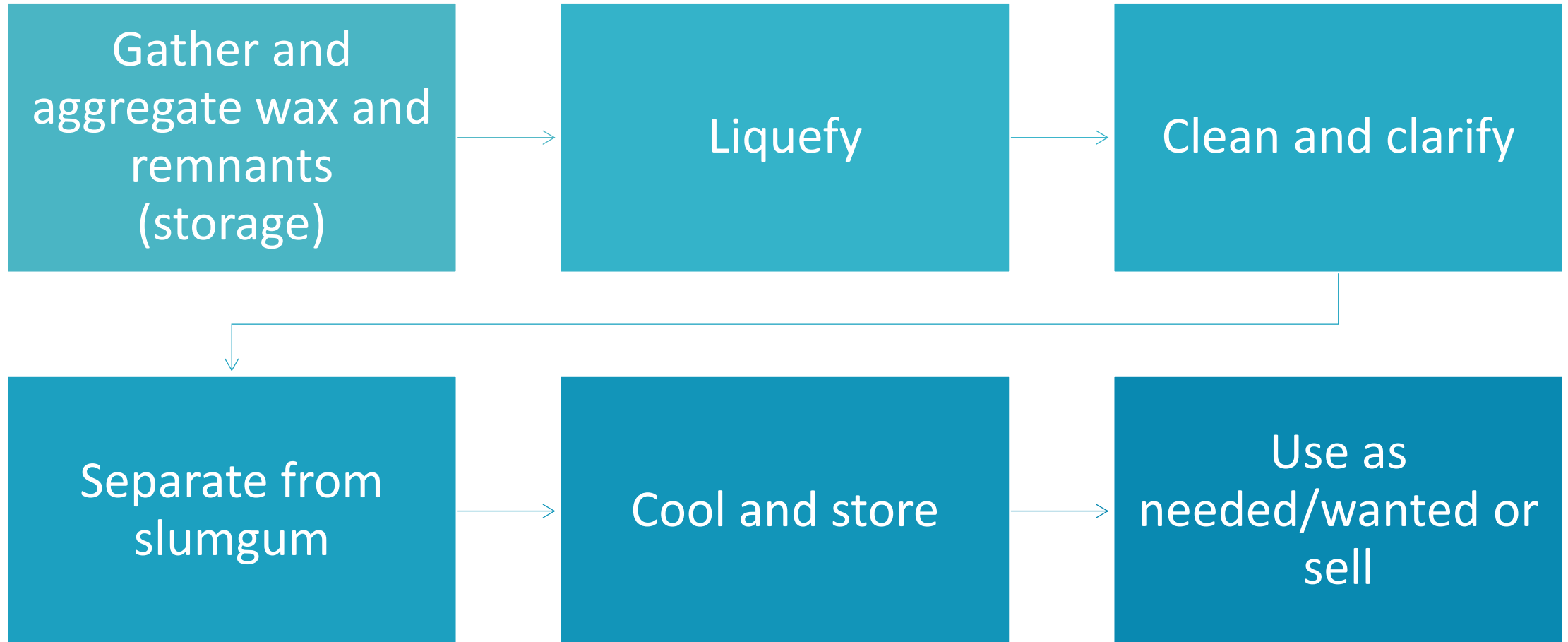


...TO THIS!

Fun Facts:

- It Costs 50 lbs of honey to make 10 lbs of beeswax.
- 1 standard deep frame of newly drawn comb includes 1-1.5 oz of wax
- 1 standard deep frame of honey weighs approximately 10 lbs (including frame and wax)
- Thus: Total wax weight in 1 deep box = 12 oz – 1lb

Many Methods, but one clear process:



Gather and aggregate wax and remnants (storage)

- Damaged comb
- Dead outs* – potentially unknown causes
- Burr Comb
- Rotated comb
- Misformed and poorly made comb
- Honey processing (cappings)

The simplest storage method is a paper bag:
in your freezer



Liquefy

Dedicated Large Crockpot

- Use an old crockpot (Large 6-8 Qts). One that can be dedicated to this purpose
- Line crockpot with fine nylon mesh or cotton cheesecloth grade 100
- Fill your receptacle with saved wax and bits (over nylon or cheesecloth)
- Add water to your wax. About half the container should be water.
- Turn on low (190° – 200°F). Stir occasionally with a dedicated spoon. Try to keep mixture below 170°F.

Clean and clarify/Separate from slumgum

Keep nylon or
cheese cloth from
falling down

Stir

Strain out
slumgum

Remove heat and
allow to cool.



Cool and Store

NOTE:

You may accelerate cooling by removing the crocker from the heating sleeve on the crockpot. Don't remove lid while cooling.

- After cool, wax is stable indefinitely at room temps (melts at 145°F)
- Some moth damage may occur over time but only superficially
- Fun Fact: The average price for Wax online is \$12-15/lb. Could be more at farmers markets.

Other Methods:

Solar Melter

Pro:

- Simple design
- Cost effective
- Dedicated purpose



Con:

- Only effective on sunny warm days
- Wax can be messy
- Wax in awkward form



Other Methods:

Double Boiler

Pro:

- Readily Available
- Even heating
- Fairly safe unless using gas to heat



Con:

- Limited Capacity
- Messy (on stove)
- **Constant Attention**
- Newly christened bee equipment

Other Methods:

Turkey Fryer

Pro:

- Large Capacity
- Inexpensive if you have the equipment
- Outside – less mess



Con:

- Difficult to control temperature
 - Damage to wax and botanicals
- Open Flame! Fire hazard

Uses for Slumgum



Used as a fire starter



**Left outside to
attract bees or other
pollinators.**



**Composted in small
amounts for garden
use.**

Any Questions?

What uses do you have for wax in the apiary?

Is wax edible?

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