



## Cleaning the PSBA Extractor Equipment

Allow about two hours for sufficient clean up the equipment; have rags, old towels, warm water on hand. Cleaning may be easiest outside, early in the morning, before bees have taken wing.

Steps: Clean extraction bucket, capping scratcher, uncapping tray (all parts), extractor, and hot knife and uncapping plane (easier if warmed up; **do not** immerse in water!!)

### 1) Clean and towel dry (old, retired towel works best) all equipment.

- extraction bucket must be free of all honey residue, soap cleaned, rinsed, and dried thoroughly to prevent mold in bucket

- hot knife and/or uncapping plane should have been wiped clean (a rag or old towel- it will get waxy) of all excess wax while hot; also, with a spray bottle (atomizer), lightly spray the hot knife and/or plane to release honey residue and wipe off (with rag) before water evaporates. Do this several times to clean.

be careful to not touch the hot surface during cleaning, as contact can cause burns!

- wipe capping scratcher clean with damp cloth until all honey residue is gone

- uncapping tray should be cleaned with hot water ideally. scrape wax drips from bottom and sides of tray rinse thoroughly and towel dry equipment should be dry to the touch upon return

- extractor is best cleaned outdoors before bees are out and about. hot water works best.

**be sure that extractor spout is fully opened** before hosing down interior of extractor

[sealed bearings (at base of center axle) will be destroyed if immersed in water]

try to remove all wax residue and honey from all surfaces (mostly the interior sides of the housing and the outer part of the cylindrical cage) towel dry entire interior upon completion of rinse phase.

### 2) Under no circumstances should the extractor be disassembled.

The only way to keep the extractor rental service going is to take best care of equipment so that it lasts long AND so that volunteers do not get burned out!

Damaged or sticky equipment will be charged damage deposit accordingly. Improper use or tampering with equipment may lead to suspension of extractor use privilege.