



HOW TO MAKE A MESH SCREEN FLOOR

Mesh screens in the floor of the beehive are used often for Varroa treatment and for hygiene if the hive has to be sealed up for snow, transport or extreme weather conditions. It is fairly easy to add a screen into the floor of the Bunka hive because the base part is cast upside down, giving you easy access to the floor section. This guide shows a quick and easy way to make and add a mesh screen.



THE GENERAL IDEA:

The Bee Bunka's brood base comprises of a thick floor, four short walls and an entrance cut into one of the shorter walls. The part is made upside down in the mould, so the floor is at the top when the concrete is poured in. To make an opening in the floor you simply have to make a rectangular frame and place it onto the floor area of the mould. When the concrete is poured in the frame will leave a rectangular hole that can be covered in mesh and closed with a lid.

STEP 1:

You can make the rectangular frame from wood, steel or plastic (we made ours from wood). The walls of the frame must be as deep as the Bunka floor (65mm). Measure and cut the four pieces for the frame. Once you have joined the four pieces together you can choose to attach the mesh to the frame, or you can leave the frame empty and just place the mesh into the bottom of the hive, over the hole, after casting the concrete part.



STEP 2:

Place the frame onto the floor section of the mould. Use a heavy object to hold the frame down onto the mould (the concrete will try to work itself under the frame and push it up).



STEP 3:

Mix and cast the concrete as usual, ensuring the concrete fills the mould well.



STEP 4:

Demould the concrete part as usual. Clean any concrete off of the screen. Usually a wooden board is used as a lid to close the hole beneath the mesh. You can measure the opening and make a simple lid that can be pulled out, or is on hinges.

