

Römers Bees - Beeswax



Photo of some of my beeswax

Beeswax is a natural wax produced by honey bees. It is used, by the bees, to create the comb cells and the capping. It has been used since prehistory as the first plastic, as a lubricant and waterproofing agent, in lost wax casting of metals and glass, as a polish for wood and leather and for making candles, as an ingredient in cosmetics and as an artistic medium in encaustic painting.

When beekeepers extract the honey, they cut off the wax caps from each honeycomb cell. Its colour varies from nearly white to brownish, but most often a shade of yellow, depending on purity, the region, and the type of flowers gathered by the bees. Wax from the brood comb of the honey bee hive tends to be darker than wax from the honeycomb. Impurities accumulate more quickly in the brood comb. Due to the impurities, the wax must be rendered before further use.

The wax may be clarified further by heating in water. As with petroleum waxes, it may be softened by dilution with mineral oil or vegetable oil to make it more workable at room temperature.

I do my best to filter out impurities, in my beeswax, but I cannot get the results that commercial operations achieve.

I have pure beeswax in various random sized blocks, with colours from light yellow to dark brown. Let me know if you have a preference.