Installing a Package of Honey Bees

Your honey bees have arrived after their journey. They might be a little tired and enjoy some refreshment just like us!

1. Place your honey bees in a coolish, shaded , quiet place until late afternoon.
2. Mix up some fresh room temp. water with a little sugar. With a clean, soft brush, put a little of this mixture on the screen and watch for the honey bees to come and drink it. You can do as long as they are still taking it.
3. Meanwhile set up your hive body where their home will be. Be sure the ground is clear of debris and dry.
4. Mix up extra sugar water, almost 1 to 1 ratio for a feeding jar which you will place on the hive after they are installed. Also prepare a spray bottle of clean water.

5. Remove the lid to the hive body. With proper attire, tools at hand and spray bottle of water, gently remove the can from the top of the package. Gently shake the honey bees into the tops of the frames and spray them with a little mist of water. Now you can get to the little cage containing the queen bee. Examine it carefully, looking for the cork cover over the end with the sugar candy. REMOVE IT. Now place the queen cage between two frames hanging down with the candy end at the BOTTOM of the cage. Gently brush the honey bees off the tops of the frames into the box so that you can gently close the lid. You do not have to get all of the honey bees out of the shipping package, only a portion.

6. Now that the queen cage is inside your hive body and the lid is on, make a little ramp of cardboard or plywood from the front of the hive to the ground (if the hive is not too far off the ground). Shake more of the honey bees onto the ground at the base of the ramp and lie the package on the ground with the opening facing the ramp. You can mist them with a little water to encourage them to walk rather than fly. If the hive body is too far off the ground for the ramp then lie the package on the top of the hive with the opening facing the hive entrance.
CONGRATULATIONS, **YER DONE!**