

Tunncliffe's

Tunncliffe Timber Company Limited

Assembly Recommendations for Beehive Boxes

Tunncliffe's Beehive Boxes are supplied as components and have to be assembled before use.

Boxes are assembled by aligning the top (frame rebate side), usually by putting the board upside down in a jig while keeping the sides square and the corners tight.

There are many different ways of fixing the corners, such as using staples, nails or screws (minimal 50mm long), with or without the use of glue.

The numbers of fixings also vary, but most commonly there are 4 on the handle or end-piece of the box and 3 skew on the side, as per the image below left.



Timber moves, especially across the grain (over the width of the boards), due to variations in temperature and moisture in the air. This can cause a variation in widths of the boards, once lined up along the top, boards may not line up perfectly along the bottom. Although in most cases this variation will not be significant or cause a problem, it is good practice to run the box past a bench saw to true up the bottom edges as shown in image above right.

The depth of the box is critical with regard to the bee space. The standard depth of a full depth box in New Zealand is **240mm**. Tunncliffe's machine the timber to **242mm**, making sure there is enough timber, allowing for movement. The absolute minimum is **238mm**.

A similar procedure applies to our $\frac{3}{4}$ depth boxes which are machined at **185mm**, the standard size is **185mm** and the absolute minimum is **183mm**. ●