

Comb Honey Classes

The general requirements for both sections and cut comb are the same. All comb honey must be produced on new, thin, unwired foundation and fully capped on both sides, free from cells containing pollen and with no signs of Braula (bee louse) or wax moth damage. A whole frame should have new, wired foundation.

There is a [Preparation-Of-Comb-Honey-For-Show.pdf](#) available on the TTVBKA website.

Whole comb/frame (for rotary extraction)

- The combs should be drawn on new, wired foundation, fitted in a (preferably) new frame
- The chosen frame should be evenly drawn & well capped heavy for its size
- The capping should be as white as possible
- The frame should have as few unfilled cells as possible. Any unfilled cells should be around the edges, not in the middle
- The honey should all be one colour with no sign of granulation.
- There should be no cells containing pollen or other debris
- The capping should be clean and even without any dips and depressions and clear of the woodwork (so that uncapping would be an easy process)
- The frame must be clean.
 - Carefully use a small sharp knife or scraper and scrape of dirt and propolis including the underside of the lugs. Don't leave 'dust' on honey
- Place the frame in showcase
- The showcase should be glazed on both sides and the correct size for the frame
- The showcase should be bee tight and easily opened by the judge for inspection
- Some Shows allow exhibits to be displayed using alternative modes including cellophane, Perspex and cling film – always check the Show Schedule
- Travel staining, 'weeping' cells, Braula trails and the presence of wax moth will result in downgrading or elimination
- Storing in the freezer will prevent granulation taking place (as long as there is no granulation already in the comb) and kill off any wax moth eggs & Braula that may be on the frame. Allow all comb to defrost thoroughly before removing from the (air-tight) container

What is the judge looking for?

- The comb fully sealed on both sides and into all corners
- There is no 'tunnelling' from wax moth or Braula
- No cells of pollen
- One type of honey throughout
- No sign of granulation.
- If the class states 'suitable for extraction' the judge will look to see if wired foundation has been used and the sealed cells are proud of the frame to allow easy uncapping with a knife
- Shining a torch through the comb will show up any faults – shine through the comb from behind

Cut Comb

Comb honey is one of the purest forms of honey available as it's exactly as the bees produced. It's also an ideal way of dealing with Ling Heather honey, which is practically impossible to extract using conventional methods.

The process of producing cut comb honey starts with using the correct foundation, thin and unwired, in the hive.

- Select an evenly drawn out and capped (unwired) frame
- The capping should be as white as possible
- Make a template of the cut comb container and using a clean sharp knife, cut round the template which has been placed on the honey comb.
 - If two pieces are required, cut from the same comb
- Put the pieces of comb on to a wire cooling rack and let the excess honey drain off
- Carefully place the cut comb in to its container

What is the judge looking for?

- The weights must be as the schedule (gross, or nett, within limits stated)
- Matching pairs must truly match in size, shape and weight and cut in the same direction
- The honey should have no signs of crystallisation or pollen (in the cells)
- The comb exactly fits the container
- Both sides of the comb should be fully sealed
- There should be no liquid honey in the box
- Is in a standard container – **check the schedule for requirements**
- Good colour, taste and aroma

Honey Sections

Honey Sections is one of the least entered categories at many shows as they require early planning and special equipment. Sections are generally made using square or round wooden frames.

- When showing honey sections, the wooden frame must be scrupulously clean
 - Use a knife or a razor blade to carefully scrape of propolis, avoid damaging the comb or spoiling it with dust and debris
- Each section should be filled with honey, and capped on both sides
- If a class requires more than one section, all sections must contain the same type of honey and have similar capping, preferably produced in the same section rack or super
- Check the schedule for guidance on the display requirements but make sure all sections are displayed the correct way up (the way it hangs in the hive)
- Judging criteria for Honey Sections is the same as for Cut Comb with the addition of a clean, propolis free frame.

The TTVBKA provides this information as general guidance only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and safety, TTVBKA accepts no responsibility or liability for any outcomes resulting from the use of this advice. Exhibitors and beekeepers should exercise their own judgment and consult relevant regulations or professionals where appropriate. Judging criteria may vary between shows and individual judges. Always consult your specific show's schedule, rules and entry guidelines.