



Tied-Down Bee Hives

Apiarists in Kentucky have developed recommendations for keeping hives safe from bears even in remote bear habitat.

Strong cargo tie-down straps that secure hives to a concrete foundation or platform will thwart bears' attempts to move or wreck them. To be effective, this method has the following recommended standards:

1. The hive boxes should be of new construction or in excellent condition.
2. Hive boxes need to be secured to a platform so that they can't be shifted as a bear tries to push on it or slip under the tie-down.
 - a. If your hives are in a permanent location, the steel stand or platform that the apiary is secured to should be concreted in place.
3. If you move your hives seasonally, the tie-down method can be used to secure your hives to a trailer, but the trailer is best kept in conjunction with a temporary electric fence
4. Tie-down straps are essentially webbing that is outfitted with tie-down hardware.
There are two categories of tie-down hardware:
 - a. Fasteners: cam, over-center, and ratchet fasteners, and
 - b. Buckles: tressed or snap
Apiarists recommend the following tie-down standards for securing bee hives:
 - a. Thick and wide webbing suitable for truckers
 - b. Ratchet fasteners are a weak point that can be exploited by bears. If you use ratchet straps, you should also use a chain or cable with a turn buckle.



Heavy-duty cargo straps with metal fasteners are best.



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Each stand must be securely anchored in the ground.