



Varroa Mite Treatment Quick Guide

A customer handout from Honey Top Bees

www.honeytopbees.com



- This guide summarizes the core information on **Apivar**, **Formic Pro**, **Apiguard**, **oxalic acid vaporization**, **VarroSan**, and **Norroa**.
- Treatment choice should always be based on **mite counts**, **season**, **brood status**, **temperature**, and **honey-super status**.
- Always follow the **current product label** and your state regulations.

At-a-Glance Chart

Treatment	Honey supers?	Temp note	Treatment length
Apivar	No	No label temperature restriction	42–56 days; wait 14 days after removal before supers return
Formic Pro	Yes	50°F–85°F	14-day or 20-day option
Apiguard	No	60°F–105°F; reduce dose above 77°F	Usually 4–6 weeks
Oxalic Acid Vapor	Yes	No label temperature restriction	Single application; repeated applications may be needed if brood is present
VarroSan	Yes*	No label temperature restriction	42–56 days
Norroa	Recommended off	Avoid heavy nectar flow	Single application; bees empty pouches in 1–2 days

*VarroSan may remain on only when one full chamber separates the treatment from extractable honey.

Apivar

Amitraz strips

Active ingredient	Amitraz 3.33%
Honey supers	No. Remove honey supers before treatment. Wait 14 days after strip removal before putting supers back on.
Temperature	No label temperature restriction.
Treatment length	Leave strips in for 42 days minimum ; remove by 56 days maximum .
Basic dose	About 1 strip per 5 frames of bees , typically 2 strips per brood chamber .
Placement	Hang strips in the brood area so bees contact both sides . Keep at least two frames between strips.

Key points

- A strong long-duration option when brood is present.
- Works well when you can plan around honey-super removal.
- Do not reuse strips and do not leave them in the hive longer than the label allows.

When it often fits best

- Spring or fall when you want a steady treatment window.
- Colonies with brood where a long-contact treatment is acceptable.

Important caution: Rotate away from amitraz over time to help slow resistance. Verify success with a follow-up mite wash.

Reminder: Check mite levels with an alcohol wash before treatment and again after treatment to confirm the colony is back under control.

Formic Pro

Formic acid strips

Active ingredient	Formic acid 42.25%
Honey supers	Yes. Honey supers may remain on during treatment when used according to the label.
Temperature	Daytime highs should remain between 50°F and 85°F during treatment.
Treatment length	14-day option: 2 strips at once for 14 days. 20-day option: 1 strip for 10 days, then a fresh strip for another 10 days.
Basic dose	Use the labeled strip option for the program you choose.
Placement	Place strips flat across the top bars of the lower brood chamber in the brood area.

Key points

- One of the few treatments that can reach mites under capped brood.
- Good ventilation and a fully open entrance are important.
- Make sure the colony has enough space and avoid unnecessary disturbance during the first few days.

When it often fits best

- When temperatures cooperate and you want a product that can work through capped brood.
- Useful when honey supers are on.

Important caution: Hot weather, weak colonies, or poor ventilation can cause brood loss, queen interruption, or queen loss.

Reminder: Check mite levels with an alcohol wash before treatment and again after treatment to confirm the colony is back under control.

Apiguard

Thymol gel

Active ingredient	Thymol 25%
Honey supers	No. Remove surplus honey supers before treatment. Supers may return after treatment is complete and remaining gel is removed.
Temperature	Do not use below 60°F or above 105°F . Use reduced-dose guidance when temperatures are above 77°F .
Treatment length	Usually 4–6 weeks . Standard program is one tray, then a second tray after 14 days.
Basic dose	Standard colonies usually receive one 50 g tray at a time. Small or weak colonies need less.
Placement	Place the tray centered on top of brood frames with at least ¼ inch of space above it.

Key points

- A useful late-summer or early-fall treatment after honey harvest.
- Common choice for beekeepers who want a thymol-based option.
- Colonies may beard or become temporarily more agitated during treatment.

When it often fits best

- After honey harvest when temperatures are appropriate.
- Beekeepers looking for an essential-oil-based treatment.

Important caution: Do not overdose. Temporary brood interruption and agitation can occur.

Reminder: Check mite levels with an alcohol wash before treatment and again after treatment to confirm the colony is back under control.

Oxalic Acid Vaporization

Oxalic acid sublimation / vapor treatment

Active ingredient	Oxalic acid dihydrate
Honey supers	Yes. The current U.S. label allows treatment with honey supers on.
Temperature	No specific label temperature restriction.
Treatment length	Each vaporization is a single application . Repeated applications may be needed if capped brood is present.
Basic dose	Under the current Api-Bioxal label, use up to 4 grams per brood chamber .
Best biological window	Most effective when the colony is broodless or nearly broodless .

Key points

- Excellent cleanup treatment during a brood break or winter brood minimum.
- Does not reliably control mites protected under capped brood.
- Often used as part of a broader integrated mite-management plan.

When it often fits best

- Broodless colonies, winter brood minimum, or created brood breaks.
- Situations where you want a quick treatment and can use proper safety equipment.

Important caution: *Serious inhalation hazard. Full PPE, including the correct respirator, is essential.*

Reminder: Check mite levels with an alcohol wash before treatment and again after treatment to confirm the colony is back under control.

VarroxCare

Extended-release oxalic acid strips

Active ingredient	Oxalic acid dihydrate 18.42%
Honey supers	Yes, with a condition. Keep at least one full chamber between the treatment and extractable honey.
Temperature	No label temperature restriction.
Treatment length	Leave strips in for 42–56 days . Remove all strips and remnants by day 56.
Basic dose	About 1 strip per 2.5 frames of bees , up to 4 strips per brood chamber .
Placement	Fold each strip over a top bar and hang it vertically in the brood area so bees can walk on both sides.

Key points

- A long-exposure oxalic-acid option that can be used while brood is present.
- Useful when high temperatures make some other products difficult.
- Check strip position during treatment so the cluster stays in contact with them.

When it often fits best

- Colonies with brood when you want extended oxalic-acid exposure.
- Beekeepers who need flexibility around warmer conditions.

Important caution: *If bees remove strips too quickly or colony behavior changes during heavy nectar flow, practical exposure may be reduced.*

Reminder: Check mite levels with an alcohol wash before treatment and again after treatment to confirm the colony is back under control.

Norroa

Vadescana dsRNA pouches

Active ingredient	Vadescana (double-stranded RNA)
Honey supers	Recommended practice: Remove supers before treatment and replace them about 1 week after the pouches are emptied . Avoid treating during a heavy nectar flow.
Temperature	No specific label temperature range is emphasized.
Treatment length	A single application . Bees usually empty the pouches in 1–2 days .
Basic dose	Use 2 pouches per brood box .
How it works	It helps prevent mite reproduction rather than acting as a quick knockdown treatment.

Key points

- Best used when open brood is present and mite levels are still relatively low.
- Works as a population-suppression tool within an integrated program.
- Do not expect an immediate dramatic mite drop like a fast knockdown treatment.

When it often fits best

- Early intervention to help keep mite levels from building.
- Beekeepers using an integrated approach and monitoring regularly.

Important caution: *Not a rescue treatment for a heavily infested colony. If mite counts are already high, use a quicker knockdown tool.*

Reminder: Check mite levels with an alcohol wash before treatment and again after treatment to confirm the colony is back under control.