

Varroa mite monitoring alcohol wash

1. Collect $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of bees (about 300 bees) into the jar.
2. Add isopropyl alcohol (35%-70%) to cover the bees.
3. Close the jar tightly with the solid lid and vigorously shake for 60 seconds.
4. Replace the solid lid with the mesh screen.
5. Pour alcohol and mites through the mesh into a clean container.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 for a second rinse.
7. Count the number of mites in the container.
8. For best accuracy, count the bees collected.

$$\text{Varroa load} = \frac{\# \text{ of } \textit{varroa mites}}{\# \text{ of } \textit{bees}}$$

