



## ***Hummingbird Feeder Information***

### **CLEANING**

Using the correct cleaning solution is equally as important as a cleanable shape. When cleaning a nectar feeder, it is best to ***use a 50/50 solution of white vinegar & warm water***. Using harsh chemicals or running the feeder through the dishwasher could cause the feeder to warp and also could leave residues on the feeder that may make tiny hummingbirds ill. Remember to clean the feeder ports too. A small brush should be inserted into the ports to scrub away any grime build up. Some sources suggest using rice as an abrasive to dislodge build-up in reservoir feeders but this method is not 100% effective. The best bet for a really clean hummingbird feeder is to purchase one that is easy and quick to disassemble, and one that you won't mind cleaning multiple times a week.

It is also good to remember that you will need to ***clean your hummingbird feeder at least every five days***, more often in warm weather, as nectar easily spoils in the sun and heat.

### **HOW TO REPLACE FLOWERS**

Santoprene (rubber) replacement flowers are available for all models of the Happy Eight (H8-2) as well as the original Window Hummer (WH-2) and the Little Flyer (LF-2 and LF-3). Remove the old flower by pulling, while turning, the old flower out of its hole in the cover. Install the new flower by lining up the stem of the new flower in the port of the cover. Press, while turning, the center of the new flower with your thumb until the new flower is flush with the cover. Please remember to also replace the nectar guard tips, which are used to keep ants and flying insects out of your feeder.

***Note: Remove nectar guard tips before removing the old flowers for replacement.***

Replacement Flowers and Nectar Guard Tips are available for your hummingbird feeders. Replacement flowers are sold in a package of 4 (HF4) for \$2.00 and Nectar Guard Tips (NGT) are sold in a package of 12 for \$4.49. Please call Droll Yankees directly to place your order, or shop online at [www.drollyankees.com](http://www.drollyankees.com).

### **PLACEMENT**

With options of window mounting, hanging, or pole mounting, you can have a hummingbird feeder almost anywhere! Place them where you can easily see them, even an accessible second story window! We've even had a report of hummingbirds visiting a penthouse garden in New York City. If you must place a nectar feeder in full sun for your enjoyment, just remember to check the condition of the nectar more often. In order to help hummingbirds find your feeders more easily, place them near a hanging flowering plant or tie a red ribbon around the hanging rod. If you place your feeders out in early spring, you will be able to entice the early arrivals of spring migration and persuade them to stay.

### **NECTAR NEEDS**

Hummingbirds need to feed between 5 and 8 times every hour, so ***keeping your feeder well supplied with energy packed nectar is crucial***, especially in early spring when natural flower nectar and insects are not as readily available.

Making your own nectar instead of using a premade mixture is easy and ensures there are no preservatives or coloring. Just mix 4 parts water to 1 part sugar. You may choose to boil the water first, but it is not mandatory. Regular table sugar (sucrose) is what hummingbirds seem to like best and it is the most digestible for them. Regular tap water is fine to use. If your water is hard, it will give birds extra electrolytes. If it is soft, add a tiny pinch of salt to each quart of nectar but don't overdo it or the hummers won't drink it. Nectar will keep in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Do not use any red dye, honey, brown sugar, or sugar substitutes, as they could all be harmful to hummingbirds.

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