

Information Sheet: Pigeons



Do you have a pigeon problem?

Attracting pigeons to the area by feeding them will make it harder for native Australian wildlife to inhabit the area.

Pigeons primarily eat seeds and grains but will happily eat human food scraps and leftovers where available.

FACT: Pigeons do not migrate, staying near their birth site (which may be your home).

Problems and Health Risks

The presence of pigeons can result in a range of problems. These can include:

- Attracting vermin (cockroaches and rats).
- Damage to buildings due to the highly corrosive nature of acid in pigeon droppings.
- Damage to properties by pigeons roosting/breeding in roof spaces.
- Build up of debris from roosting flocks causing gutters and drains to block.
- Hygiene concerns due to pigeon droppings in/on industrial, commercial, and domestic buildings.
- Introduce weeds and disease.

FACT: They can live for up to 15 years, although the average life span is three to four years.

Detecting Pigeons on your Property

Keep an eye out for factors which may indicate a pigeon problem on your property, these include the following:

- One or two pigeons frequently around the building
- Flocks of pigeons regularly frequent the building
- An accumulation of pigeon droppings on or around the building

If it is identified that your property has a pigeon problem action will need to be taken to prevent pigeons from roosting and nesting on/in the building. Should Council receive a justified complaint an Order may be served to take appropriate action.



Pigeon Control Methods

Implementing non-lethal control techniques is the most effective long term solution to reducing the pigeon population. These include:

Food reduction

- Remove sources of food and water (outdoor pet food bowls, bird baths, and bird feeders). Ensure that waste, especially from a food premises is properly stored.
- Rubbish bins have tight fitting lids which are regularly emptied and not overflowing.

Be on the lookout

- Pigeon nests are very simple and often consist of a few twigs. Look for nests along building ledges, supports beams, air-conditioning units, window sills etc.
- Pigeons are very persistent and destruction of the nest at regular intervals is needed with a combination of other control methods.

Control methods and deterrents

- Prevent pigeons from gaining access to roosting and possible nesting sites by sealing doorways, windows, open eaves etc. May be as simple as closing a window or sealing a crack or crevice using materials such as mesh or wooden panels.
- Products such as netting (bird wire or mesh), wire coils or 'pigeon spikes' prevent pigeons from landing or roosting on building surfaces. Please note that poorly designed or maintained pigeon proofing can lead to birds becoming fatally trapped. It is important for such products to be installed by a professional.
- Other methods include visual deterrents or the application of gel products that pigeons find sticky and uncomfortable to stand on.
- It will also be in the best interest for neighbouring properties to proof their property otherwise pigeons will quickly take up residence and simply move the problem around without reducing the flock size.



If you identify a pigeon problem on your property seek advice from a licensed pest control operator.



For more information please contact the Environmental Health Officers at:

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