

Factsheet



Dealing With Pigeons as a Pest

Keeping pigeons away

This leaflet is designed to help you understand and deal with problems concerning pigeons.

Are they a health hazard?

Pigeons are regarded as unacceptable, especially in large numbers. They are regarded as potential transmitters of disease and can be a noise nuisance.

Are they a problem?

Pigeons can cause problems when roosting on buildings through the fouling of ledges and on other nesting or roosting areas. Their droppings may also cause 'slip' hazards on walkways and pavements.

What happens if we feed the pigeons?

Many people take pleasure in feeding pigeons. Unfortunately, the number of pigeons attracted to an area depends on the food available. If pigeons are being fed, more pigeons will be attracted to that area. All pigeons require nesting and roosting sites (e.g. balconies, window ledges and roof areas of surrounding buildings) as well as a reliable food source. It is vital that food sources for pigeons are kept to a minimum. There have been a number of cases where people have been prosecuted for causing a health risk by feeding pigeons.

How can they be controlled?

If pigeons begin to roost on part of your property:



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- i. It may be advisable to attempt to 'scare' the pigeons away; to let them know it is not a suitable nesting place (e.g. methods can be simple - such as a piece of string with silver foil attached.)
- ii. You must also ensure there is no possible food source available to them, in the immediate area.
- iii. There are many products available to professional pest controllers that prevent pigeons from landing on ledges, roofs, balconies, etc. It is best to seek expert advice on these products.

If you are a council resident, your Estate Manager may be able to give you advice on how to deal with this problem.

If you are private owner/tenant, you may have to contact a private Pest Control Company who would normally be willing to give you a quote for pigeon proofing at your property.

All pigeon proofing work should be carried out by an experienced professional. This is due to this pest's ability to adapt to obstructions.

Prevention Methods

1. **Spiking** - Bird Spikes are the Industry Standard method of protecting your property from pigeons. They prevent pigeons roosting and landing on your property without hurting them. Spikes are recommended by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and PICAS (The Pigeon Control Advisory Service).
2. **Courtyard netting** - Nets can be used to exclude pigeons from areas of a building and is normally a very cost effective way of preventing pigeon damage to buildings.
3. **Trapping**
4. **Birth control and removal of nest sites**
5. **Repellent gels** - A variety of gels are available which are unpleasant to pigeons and discourages them from nesting. The disadvantage of gels is that they are often expensive and their effect can fade with time.

If necessary, your local Environmental Health Officer may be able to give some further information relating to pigeon nuisance and the associated legislation should you require it.

