



Volume 2, Number 2 - February 2007

Pigeons

Pigeons were first introduced into the Americas around 1606 and they are now found feral/wild in almost every city and most rural areas. Pigeons are of medical importance because more than 50 diseases & ectoparasites are associated with them, their nests and droppings.

Pigeons generally mate for life and may live for approximately 15 years. Breeding occurs year round but generally peaks around spring or summer.

There are 4 behavioral habits that require careful thought in the management of pigeons.

1. Feeding

- Includes seeds, grain, fruit and some green feed however they will readily feed on garbage and insects.
- Pigeons prefer flat areas to feed so feeding often occurs away from their nesting or roosting site.

2. Nesting

- Nests are loosely constructed and are built from sticks, stems, leaves and other materials. They like cliffs or ledges and are fond of keeping at least one side protected.

3. Roosting

- These are areas where they sleep or rest and are often high off the ground.

4. Loafing

- This is loosely defined as when pigeons are not feeding, nesting or roosting.

Pigeon control is a daunting task; you must first give thought to how they are affecting your home or life. Are there droppings involved and how must you clean these areas? Use a bleach or disinfectant along with gloves. I suggest you wear a mask in the event that the droppings become airborne. They also can carry parasites so if they are nesting inside you must also consider what happens when the birds are gone. There are numerous devices available for pigeon control including spikes, hard wear cloth, electric tracks, rotating spiders, trapping and gels.

Spikes are great but must be done with real thought as the pigeons can maneuver around them. Rotating Spider devices are perfect for chimney and parapets - they mount in different ways and prevent the birds from landing. Chimneys should have caps or exclusion devices to keep out birds, rodents and wildlife. Electric tracks are powered electricity or solar and when the pigeon lands it gives them a very mild shock. Gels or repellents are designed to prevent them from landing by getting their feet in the glue like material - which they don't like and they won't land there again. Hard wear cloth (not chicken wire) if installed correctly isn't an eye sore and will keep them out. Trapping can be effective but the birds must be destroyed or they will return to their nest. Remember pigeons born on your roof will return year after year to have their progeny on your roof. As always if you have a problem ProBest is here to help. We have the equipment and knowledge to control these pesky birds. Many HOA's have rules about what can be placed on roofs so please check with your association first. Some devices can be painted to blend in to the surroundings. Check those devices yearly and correct any damage.

Use care and caution when installing devices and when cleaning these areas.

Don't forget to check out our website

Our Do It Yourself store carries more than pesticides - Eco Smart products, Bird & Bat houses, World Alive Bug raising kits, gel ant farms, lady bug homes and many more designed to educate kids. Also on the 1st Saturday of each month we offer a free seminar from 10AM - 11AM. Knowledge is POWER! See you there.

ProBest Pest Management has been serving Arizona and the Valley for 25 years. We also provide comprehensive Pest Control Services, including Scorpion, Pigeon, Bees, Gophers and Rodents. Our resident expert "Stinger" also speaks at schools, civic organizations and Real Estate meetings.



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