

# FERAL PIGEON CONTROL

Feral pigeons have easily adapted to the urban environment and take up residence almost anywhere, particularly where there is easily accessible food and shelter. Pigeons are capable of breeding year-round and generally do not migrate far from their birthplace, making them difficult to remove.

Feral pigeons are a common pest and tend to pose more of a nuisance for residents rather than a health risk.

## Common problems with feral pigeons

There are many common problems that residents have with the presence of feral pigeons, including:

- Noise
- Odour from droppings
- Damage to buildings and monuments due to the corrosive nature of pigeon droppings
- Damage to air-conditioning units and other rooftop machinery
- Attraction of bird mites
- Hygiene concerns due to accumulated faeces



## Controlling feral pigeons

If you have a pigeon problem, there are many techniques that can be used to reduce or remove the population. Implementing one or more of these non-lethal techniques will provide the most effective long term results. The best way to minimise or prevent the nuisance caused by feral pigeons is to control where they roost, nest and feed.

It is important that other surrounding residents also adopt pigeon control techniques, otherwise the pigeons may simply relocate to a neighbouring property and the flock size will not be reduced.

## Removing food sources

The number of pigeons in an area is generally linked with the availability of a sustainable food source. Basically, the more food, the more pigeons. The most effective way of discouraging feral pigeons from nesting at and near homes and public areas is to remove any potential food source.

**Never feed feral pigeons! A plentiful food supply encourages pigeons to stay in the area and continue to breed year round.**

**Less food will encourage pigeons to move to another location and result in less breeding.**



### **Pigeon-proofing**

Pigeons commonly perch on sites such as eaves, roofs and window ledges. Pigeon proofing your building will help to prevent pigeons gaining access to these potential roosting or nesting sites. This can include sealing gaps into buildings and under eaves with mesh, panels or wire and/or installing spikes to stop pigeons landing on the surface.

### **Scare devices**

Scare devices such as audio or visual deterrents can also discourage pigeons from nesting or roosting. These can be purchased from most hardware stores. If the scare devices stop being effective after a while, it may be beneficial to move them to another location on the roof.

### **Nest removal**

Look for signs of nesting and remove any nests regularly to discourage persistent pigeons from nesting in a particular area. One common area where pigeons nest is in palm trees, so it may be a good idea to have palm trees shaved to reduce the vegetation where they can nest.

**When removing pigeon nests or faeces it is important to protect yourself by wearing gloves and a face mask. Always wash your hands after dealing with pigeon nests or faeces.**

### **What if I've tried all this but I'm still having issues with pigeons?**

If you have tried these techniques but are still having issues it is recommended that you contact a licensed pest controller for further advice and pest-control options.

*NB: City of Playford does not offer pigeon eradication services.*

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