

Pigeons

Many residents have become more concerned lately about the increased population of pigeons on our property. One of the biggest concerns is the pigeons taking over our balconies. Many residents are away at work all day and cannot be vigilant all 24 hours to shoo them away, and the pigeons get comfortable with a certain peaceful balcony location and then begin to nest there. Many unpleasant things ensue.

Over time, many articles and many people have put forward ideas for liberating their balconies and other spaces from pigeons. Others try the tips, and they may or may not work equally well. Some methods seem to work for a while and then the birds figure it out.

Of course, the primary prevention is to discourage them by **NOT FEEDING** them.

Here are some other suggestions.

- * Use reflective features. These may not work long-term, but try installing reflective tape or foil balloons to scare them away.
- * Scare them with a bang! This low-tech method is to buy some party snaps from a party favours/joke store and place them in the area where the pigeons are likely to land (and then the snaps explode).
- * Try spicing things up. Pigeons don't like spices. Sprinkle cayenne pepper, cinnamon, black pepper, etc., where they roost. Be generous and repeat after wet weather.
- * Screen off or cover water sources such as air conditioner drains or buckets that they might drink from.
- * Never leave food on your balcony.
- * On ledges, try bristling wires, also know as porcupine wires, or sticky pastes that will deter them from landing and gathering.
- * There are ultrasonic repellents (get one specific to pigeons) that include speakers with motion sensors which become activated once a pigeon enters your balcony.

* Clean any pigeon poo from your ledge: this makes the pigeons slightly less likely to land and makes you more likely to shoo them away.

* Get a spray-equipped water bottle. Or a water pistol from the dollar store! If you spray them away, they will gradually learn that it's an unfriendly balcony. It's probably more effective than yelling and clapping your hands.

* Hang window boxes onto the inside of the balcony ledge. Emphasize ivy or Wandering Jew plants. They will grow along the ledge and then the pigeons don't know what they might land on.

Many suggestions involve nets and fake owls, but those may be difficult and inappropriate for our condo building.