

“How Do I Stop Pigeons from Roosting on My Balcony?”

There are many actions residents can take to stop pigeons from spending time on their balcony; however, it typically takes time to figure out which method is best for their situation. Whatever method you choose, remember if you discourage the parents from returning to their nested young, the babies will starve. Wait a few weeks, the babies will fledge and the following tips can be tried to discourage their return.

- Discourage neighbours from feeding birds excessively and regularly - they should keep feedings to a minimum and make the timing unpredictable to reduce the impact on others.
- Pigeons prefer flat surfaces to roost and nest on, so alteration of such platforms will prevent these behaviours. Wood or metal installed at a 45-60° angle will create an undesirable surface for landing.
- Bird wire (single-strand, coils or porcupine) can be used to exclude pigeons from ledges, railings, awnings and rooftops. Note: Porcupine wire does not harm birds, they are simply not able to land on it.
- Scare devices, such as scarecrows and plastic owls, may work temporarily but the birds generally become accustomed to them. Frequent adjustment of the devices may help prolong their effectiveness.
- Other scare devices include: pinwheels, aluminum pie plates, strips of Mylar fabric, wind-chimes, balloons, reflective tape... basically, any items that move and/or make noise!
- Tightly stretched wire placed horizontal to a narrow ledge will prevent landing of most birds, including pigeons. It is suggested that 16-18 gauge steel wire is most effective, using 2-3 strands placed at various heights above the ledge.
- If pigeons are trying to nest, people are advised to continually remove any new material and apply scare tactics to prevent further activity.
- To clean up pigeon droppings, people should wear rubber gloves and a mask for their safety. Feces should be moistened before being removed, using diluted bleach or other disinfectants.

For more information or advice contact the Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at 519-736-8172. Useful wildlife information and helpful guidance can also be found in the 'Living with Wildlife' Fact Sheets at <http://www.ontariospca.ca/6-factsheet.shtml>