



Humane Bird Deterrents

Birds, long considered a symbol of peace, are intelligent, adaptable creatures. Many birds mate for life, and both the male and female are generally protective and affectionate with each other and their young. Take the time to watch, and you will notice their fascinating preening and courtship rituals.

Watching birds is a relaxing and enjoyable pastime for many people. For others, birds prove to be more of a nuisance than a pastime. Bird feces on sidewalks, cars and the sides of homes & buildings can be offensive as well as a threat to public health. For those who wish to discourage birds from roosting or nesting on their homes or buildings, there are many humane solutions:

Barriers

- Bird netting can be used to block access to openings and crevices where birds like to roost. Netting is available at most hardware stores.
- Bird wire consists of parallel strands of wire strung between pegs of various heights, preventing the birds from landing.
- If birds are landing on a railing or narrow ledge, secure a stretched out Slinky toy or other wire coil. The birds will be unable to land on this.
- Cover the ledge with a board slanted at an angle greater than 45 degrees. Birds will be unable to keep their footing and stop landing there.
- Some buildings may be glazed with a coating that dries to a hard, slippery finish (not to be confused with sticky gel products). Check with builders or painters for more information.

Deterrents

- Wind chimes
- White balloons can be painted with black concentric circles to resemble the eyes of predators, frightening birds away.
- Garbage can liners cut in strips can be hung around the areas you wish to protect.
- Hang strips of Mylar flash tape on plants, trees and ledges. The holographic pattern reflects flashes of light and prevents birds from landing.
- Silhouettes of hawks can be placed on windows, roofs and other locations as a deterrent.

Ideas that DO NOT work

- Killing, trapping and the use of poison (avicides) to control birds is against the law in most counties, including Philadelphia. It is also ineffective since the reason for the animals presence remains (i.e. habitat, food source, etc.).
- Sticky gel repellent can glue birds feather's together, causing them to lose body heat and die of cold, or plummet to the ground unable to fly. Wildlife rehabilitation centers receive many birds every year covered in gel, which is also ineffective because it washes away in the rain.
- Sharpened metal spikes in some cases may accidentally cause birds to be impaled.

Nesting Birds

State and federal laws restrict disturbing or destroying certain birds' nests. Before beginning any bird proofing, be sure there are no active nests. Birds become fully independent of their parents in approximately 4 to 6 weeks.

It is against the law in Philadelphia to capture, wound or kill any bird. It is also against the law to feed pigeons in any public street, square, park or place of public resort. If you would like to report these activities, contact the Department of Public Health, Animal Management Services at 215-685-9009.



Animal Management Services
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