

PIGEONS

What You Need to Know



Common Habits of Pigeons

Pigeons are opportunistic eaters, and their willingness to sample a wide variety of foods makes them relatively common in cityscapes.

When pigeons are fed by humans, they generally lose their fear of people and may become nuisances. Feeding may also cause the population to grow unnaturally large, which in turn leads to fighting amongst the birds over resources.

Nuisance Birds

These birds are scavengers and frequently return to places where there is a reliable food source. Nuisances created by birds may include:

1. Accumulation of bird feces – Bird feces are acidic and can damage property and vehicles. Build-up of bird feces is smelly, slippery and unappealing to look at. Bird feces can also carry diseases.
2. Bad neighbors – Birds are terrible neighbors. They can spread trash and feathers and their feces can cover lawns, roofs, cars and lawn furniture. Large flocks of birds create noise nuisances.

Controlling the Pigeon

Eliminate food - Pigeons seek adequate food and water sources, and may become territorial. In general, removal of any water or food sources is a good first step to eliminating nuisance birds.

Eliminate habitat - Elimination of perching and roosting opportunities is a second step in controlling a bird population. This can be accomplished by trimming trees, using bird spikes, bird netting or wires, and trapping.

The use of poisons or shooting is highly discouraged because Arizona is home to one of the largest protected bird programs in the country. Please consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department at <https://azgfd.com/> for more information.

Please also consult your local bird or pest control company to secure bird control measures or for more information.

Have a Pigeon Nuisance?

If you feel that there is a public health nuisance in your neighborhood here are some steps to consider:

1. Talk to your neighbor as you might be able to solve the problem with a simple conversation.
2. Contact your Homeowners Association (HOA). Your HOA might have specific rules against the feeding of wildlife and they may be able to help.
3. If you reside within municipal boundaries contact your local city or town.

Municipal Resources

Apache Junction	480-474-5112
Avondale	623-333-2701
Carefree	480-488-3686
Chandler	480-782-4320
Gilbert	480-503-6760
Glendale	623-930-3610
Goodyear	623-882-7815
Mesa	480-644-3844
Peoria	623-773-7162
Phoenix	602-262-7844
Queen Creek	480-358-3003
Scottsdale	480-312-2546
Surprise	623-222-3000
Tempe	480-350-8996

*If you don't see your city or town listed please contact the general contact number for your city or town for assistance.

Take Responsibility

Be a Good Neighbor

Maricopa County has no Code stating it is illegal to feed wild pigeons but it is discouraged. When feeding wild birds please do so with care and consideration of your neighbors. Feed birds in such a way that does not create a nuisance or attract other pests in your neighborhood. In Maricopa County it is the responsibility of property owners to prevent conditions on their property that create a public health nuisance.

What the Maricopa County Environmental Health Code Says:

The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department has the authority to respond to complaints regarding birds (such as pigeons) that are kept in cages, shelters and aviaries etc. and that have become a public health nuisance.

Bird droppings should be removed from cages, shelters and aviaries etc. at least twice weekly and disposed of in an approved manner free of health hazard or public health nuisance.

For more information about the health effects of pigeon related diseases you may contact National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 1 (800) 35-NIOSH, or visit www.cdc.gov/niosh



Maricopa County
Environmental Services Department
602-506-6616



Working with our community to ensure a safe and healthy environment.