

Problems They Cause

- Birds and their fouling can transmit **nasty diseases** and can also spread insects and parasites including ticks, fleas, lice and mites.
- Not only does bird droppings look unsightly, it contain acid which is **highly corrosive** and can lead to **damaged building exteriors**.
- Birds can also cause damage to your premises by dislodging roof tiles and leaving nest debris in **blocked drains and gutters**. Which could in time cause blockages and even flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Bird droppings can be a **slip hazard** to pedestrians.
- Gulls are **noisy** and have been known to attack nearby people when they have young in their nest.
- Gulls can peck at buildings resulting in damage buildings. They can easily rip open rubbish sacks whilst searching for food, **creating a mess** and attract rats and mice.

Commercial Control Methods

- Vergo utilises a wide array of specialist non-lethal bird management solutions including netting, spikes, wire systems, lasers, electric deterrents, repellent gels and scaring technologies.
- The selection of system is building-specific and through years of experience we know what system and components work best where.
- Where absolutely necessary for public health & safety reasons, and where legislation allows, we also offer physical removal or humane lethal control including catch and release, shooting, trapping and egg and nest removals.



Feral Pigeon

Gull

Pest Biology

The **Feral Pigeon** is descended from a domesticated strain of the Rock Dove.

- Feral Pigeons generally have red feet, a body length of 31-34cm and a weight of 250-560g.
- They build their nests in or on buildings, ledges or in hollows – often under eaves or on girders.
- If food is in plentiful supply, feral pigeons can breed throughout the year and have up to 7 broods of 2 young each year.
- The young develop very quickly, fed on highly nutritious regurgitated pigeon ‘milk’.

Gull species mostly found on buildings are:

- Black-headed gull: medium-sized with black heads in the breeding season
- Herring gull: Large with light grey back and pink legs
- Lesser black-backed gull: Large with medium dark grey back and yellow legs

Herring gulls and lesser black-backed gulls regularly nest on buildings. Black headed gulls just come into urban areas to feed.

What you can do to help

- Remove any possible food source as this will encourage pest birds to take up residence nearby. Pigeon flock size is directly proportional to local food supply, feeding birds can also encourage rats and mice.
- If cleaning up droppings, ensure you have appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), as serious diseases can be lurking in the fouling. Alternatively, call Vergo who will follow safe working procedures when carrying out this dangerous work.
- Keep external doors closed to prevent access.



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