

Suppression

Pigeon suppression is supplemental to sanitation and exclusion and only necessary when there is serious cause for concern of public health. Because of the health risk and expertise needed, pigeon suppression should be done by a pest control professional.

Pigeon suppression methods:

- Trapping
- Shooting
- Chemical control
- Hand capture



Combining methods is most effective. Because of their homing capability, pigeons will usually return if they are released elsewhere, therefore pigeons that are removed should be humanely killed for a practical result. Once pigeons are removed from a building, mites from the nests may start to bite human inhabitants.

Nesting and roosting areas should be cleaned immediately, and can be sprayed or dusted with products that kill mites.

Discharging guns within cities is dangerous and **illegal**.

The District Program

San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control is an independent, special district funded by a property tax voted in by individual cities.

We provide the following services for district residents:

**Mosquito Control
Yellowjacket Control
Rodent and Roach
Inspection
Insect and Tick
Identification
Vector-borne Disease
Surveillance
Community Education**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE
MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT PIGEONS, CALL
THE DISTRICT OFFICE

(650) 344-8592

1351 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA

www.smcmad.org

Pigeons and Public Health



*San Mateo County
Mosquito and Vector
Control District*

*"An Independent
Special District
Working for You!"*

1351 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
Tel: 650.344.8592
Fax: 650.344.3843

Common Pigeon (*Columba livia*)



Common pigeons, or rock doves, were introduced to North America by European settlers as a food source. They are ubiquitous in urban areas and easily recognized. Pigeon droppings can transmit diseases to people. In addition, bird ectoparasites (mites, ticks, lice, etc.) may bite people, usually after birds have roosted within a building.

Human diseases transmitted by pigeons include:

- Encephalitis
- Chlamydia psittaci
- Aspergillosis
- Thrush
- Histoplasmosis
- Cryptococosis

Sanitation

A pigeon infestation is a sign of poor sanitation. This includes accessible food, mainly grains and bread. Proper environmental management is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant.

Environmental sanitation includes proper storage and handling of food and waste, general cleanliness, and eliminating pigeon nesting areas. Measures to sanitize include:

- Disposing, transporting and storing garbage in containers with tight lids.



- Quickly clean up spills of food products.
- Discourage or prohibit pigeon feeding.
- Repair leaks, such as coolers on rooftops, which attract pigeons as a source of water.

People with good intentions sometimes feed pigeons, which can create or worsen a local problem. Pigeons do not need help finding food; their ability to locate food sources has led to large urban populations.

Exclusion

Exclusion prevents pigeons from finding nesting and roosting sites in or on a building.

Steps to exclude pigeons:

- Cover openings (doors, windows, vents etc.) with hardware cloth. Mesh with 1-1/2 inch openings will exclude pigeons, but 1/4 inch is recommended to also exclude mice and bats.



Hardware cloth prevents access to pigeons and other

- Ledges should have a slope greater than 45°, or covered with spikes, sticky repellents, air blasters, or other commercial products.



Spiking should cover the entire ledge to be effective.

- Prune dead palm fronds from trees.
- Maintain and repair exclusion modifications and equipment when necessary.