



Pigeon Nuisances

Feeding birds encourages pigeons to roost in the immediate vicinity, causing property damage, unsanitary conditions and a potential health hazard. Nests, feathers and bird waste can cause human disease. Bird feed is also a source of food for rodents. All of this constitutes a public nuisance to the community. The Department of Public Health recognizes that pigeons create problems for the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco.

According to the [San Francisco Police Code](#) (Article 7, Section 486), it is “unlawful for any person to feed or offer food to any bird or wild animal in or on any sidewalk, street or highway of the City and County of San Francisco.” The Department of Public Health’s Environmental Health Section responds to citizen complaints regarding the nesting and roosting of pigeons and restricts the feeding of pigeons to designated areas of the City. However, the City cannot pigeon-proof nor remove the pigeon droppings and feathers from private residences and buildings. This is the responsibility of the property owners. Additionally, the City cannot reimburse owners for costs incurred to resolve the problem.

What you can do:

- Remove all food sources from the property
- Remove all bird waste, feathers and abandoned nesting materials
- Discourage roosting by means of wire or nylon mesh, or other means, if needed
- Maintain property in a clean, nuisance-free condition at all times
- Do not feed pigeons or other wild birds