



# Allpest Pest Awareness

## Keeping you informed

Our Pest Awareness Series offer informative, easy to understand information on a range of problem pests.

We aim to keep you in control and as well as maintain a safe and healthier environment for your immediate surrounding.

Our Pest Awareness Sheet presents facts on:

- Overview
- Ecology and Habit
- Breeding Cycle
- Health Risk

For more range of the series, please visit our website [www.allpest.com.au](http://www.allpest.com.au) or call us at 08 9416 0200





**Pigeon**  
(*Columba Livia*)

## Overview

Pigeon populations in Australia are growing at an alarming rate, affecting many commercial and domestic buildings. Pigeons are responsible for untold millions of dollars of damage each year in urban areas. The uric acid in their faeces is highly corrosive and most times, the debris from roosting flocks causes damage to roofs, gutters and drains through bulk build up.

## Ecology

Most pigeons build their nests in trees, buildings, grounds or rocky cliffs. They are swift and powerful fliers with plump bodies and short sturdy legs. Pigeons are active during the day and usually travel in groups when feeding.

## Lifecycle

Most species of pigeon range from 25 to 38 cm in length. They mostly have a lifespan of 3 to 4 years in the wild and up to 16 years in captivity.

## Health risk

There are three human diseases that are known to be associated with pigeon droppings. They are:

- **Histoplasmosis (fungus causing disease)**  
It grows on pigeon dropping or soil. A person may breathe in the fungus causing bacteria and develop infections such as fatigue, fever and chest pains.
- **Cryptococcosis (fungus causing disease)**  
It grows on pigeon droppings or soils. It may cause similar infections to Histoplasmosis.
- **Psittacosis (parrot fever)**  
This is a rare infectious disease that mainly affects parrots and birds such as parakeets, cockatiels and pigeons. Airborne bacteria may be inhaled and can cause symptoms such as fatigue, rash, head ache and sometimes even pneumonia. These symptoms may develop a few days after exposure to the airborne bacteria.



**(08) 9416 0200**

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