



The new era in bird control

*Bird Free Optical Gel
Feral Pigeon Repellent*

Installation manual



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Since its introduction into the UK in 2011, *Bird Free* Optical Gel has been successfully installed at thousands of sites throughout Europe. During this time, *Bird Free* has proved to remain effective (without the need for maintenance) for a minimum of four years, even in full exposure over 50 degrees Celsius in Dubai.

In Australia, Bird Free Optical Gel is approved for use by the APVMA on feral pigeons, starlings and mynah birds, and has been successfully installed in domestic and commercial areas, mine sites and council waste facilities. Bird Free Optical Gel has remained effective even in heavily polluted areas. The gel will withstand high and low temperatures, remaining stable in exposed conditions. Bird Free Optical Gel has proved effective at preventing these birds from returning to long-standing nesting sites (high pressure), as well as at medium- and low-pressure sites. As explained below, the dishes of optical gel must be fitted at spacing's commensurate with the pressure.

Successful bird management is only as good as the products and procedures applied by the installer. Before installing Bird Free Optical gel some key factors must first be considered.

Correct identification of the pest bird species, and situation where relief from the birds are required. This will ensure correct methods are utilised, which may actually exclude the use of Bird Free Optical Gel. This may be due to factors where the gel may become covered or damaged either directly or indirectly, inturn causing the gel to become ineffective.

Where the site is considered favourable for Bird Free Optical Gel this manual will provide guidance in the correct installation procedures and should be followed as outlined below.

* Please be aware, in Australia, Bird Free Optical Gel is only approved for use on feral pigeons, starlings and mynah birds.

After the site has been chosen, ensure a risk management and procedure plan has been put in place to cover factors such as working at heights, correct PPE and personnel management. By following this installation manual correctly, it will ensure successful bird control utilizing Bird Free Optical Gel, and may provide options for situations which may not have achieved before!

Preparation of the site prior to application of *Bird Free Optical Gel*

All nests within the vicinity **MUST** first be removed and area cleaned, even if these nests are not where the gels are to be installed.

The actual site where the birds are causing an issue, roosting and landing, may be used as a lookout area where the adjacent nests are being monitored, for this reason though site inspection must be carried out and all nesting sites identified and removed prior to installation.

If this is a nesting site follow instructions below.

It is essential to clean the application site of all nests, faeces and other organic debris before *Bird Free Optical Gel* is applied. We strongly recommend using the Bird Free cleaning products to not only clean but also sanitise the area before application. Care must be taken when dealing with nesting sites as outlined below.

Follow all instructions on the bottle used.

****Failure to do so will compromise efficacy!****

Routine cleaning of droppings where there are no nests or major accumulation of faeces (e.g. from window sills) can be done, after wetting down with cleaner, with scrapers and wire brushes. Simple precautions to reduce direct contact with droppings, such as wearing disposable gloves, dust masks and clothes that can be washed, should be taken.

When cleaning long-standing nesting or night roosting sites where there is a major accumulation of faeces, full PPE, including masks, should be worn. Precautions should be taken to ensure that members of the public are not exposed to airborne dust or other debris. Surfaces should be wetted with appropriate Bird Free Cleaner where faeces are present to limit generation of airborne dust and aerosol mists during cleaning. If a pressure washer is used, dust and aerosol control measures, such as containing the area with plastic sheeting, should be taken, alternatively the wetted faeces and debris can be removed with a shovel. The wet material should be collected in heavy-duty plastic bags, or some other type of secure container, and discarded with rubbish.

Bird faeces, especially pigeon, contain many harmful pathogens that can lead to serious health issues if inhaled or exposed to contact. Wash your hands and clean any exposed skin before eating, drinking or putting your hands near your mouth.

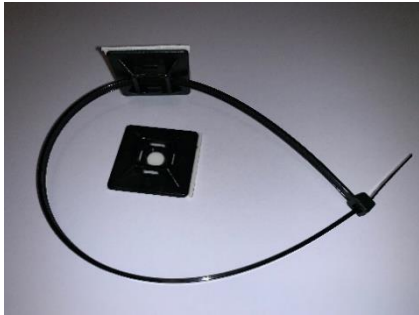
Fixing the dishes of Optical Gel

Remove covers from dishes and affix dishes to dry surfaces, in accordance with spacing guidelines below, with silicone or other removable adhesive.

For metal surfaces the use of the magnetic dishes is recommended for ease and efficient installation.

The gels can be fixed to most other irregular surfaces, such as pipe work and thin signs with the aid of Bird Free clips and bases.

Bird Free Cable Tie Bases



Bird Free Sign clips



Spacing of optical gel dishes for feral pigeons:

General guidelines to spacing of dishes for feral pigeons are as follows (all spacings are centre to centre):

Low pressure (day roosts): 250mm

Medium pressure (night roosts): 200mm

High pressure (nesting sites): 150mm

Low pressure examples

To stop pigeons from sitting on the front of a ledge (perhaps one overlooking a food source) and fouling below, one row of dishes should be fitted with silicone at 250mm centres after proper cleaning. If the birds are sitting on the leading edge the dishes can be fitted 20mm behind the leading edge so that they are invisible from below. Dishes should be fitted end to end into corners.



If the ledge is more than 250mm deep, and there is nesting/night roosting in the immediate vicinity of the ledge, two rows of dishes should be applied. Dishes should always be fitted right into the corners of the ledge as birds favour the sheltered corners, and installed in a staggered pattern.



Low/medium pressure examples

In the example shown below, pigeons were night roosting on the upper parts (medium pressure) of the delta-shaped rafters and day roosting (low pressure) on the lower parts.



The rafters were first cleaned. Dishes of *Bird Free* were then fitted to the upper parts of the rafters at 200mm centres (below left), and to the lower part of the rafters at 250mm centres (below right).



Medium/high pressure examples

For nesting/night roosting sites, spacing of dishes is 150mm for nests (below left), 200mm for night roosts (below right).



High pressure examples

Where nests are removed the dishes should be fixed at no more than 150mm centres, this is for all bird species. Skimping on the number of dishes is a false economy. If the birds are not prevented from returning to nests the whole job will be compromised. Be aware that stubborn birds may try to return to the nesting site for the first few days, follow up visits may be required and some adjustment to installation. Be patient and inform client this is normal, after a few days the birds will give up and move on.



In the urban environment, wherever there are sheltered areas not frequented by humans, pigeons will tend to set up home. In the case shown below, pigeons were nesting in courtyards on the ground floor because these were unused. Artificial grass may be used as a substrate.



Pigeons nesting in the corner of balconies is a common problem. In this case, the nest must be removed and cleaned using Bird Free Cleaner. Fix four dishes in a square at 150mm centres where the nest was.



Inaccessible sites

With any bird control treatment it is essential to prevent the birds from returning to their nesting sites. The nesting site itself must be treated. Applying *Bird Free Optical Gel* around the periphery of a nesting site which has not been treated will not deter birds from returning to untreated nests. If the nesting site is inaccessible it will need to be blocked off.

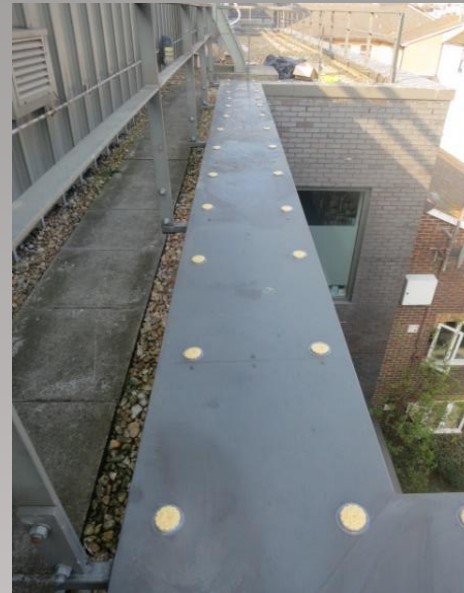


Spacing of dishes for pigeons

When treating pigeon-infested areas with *Bird Free Optical Gel* spacing of dishes will, again, depend on the level of pressure. In the example shown below, dishes were fixed to the heavily fouled sections of the roof at 250mm centres after first cleaning the area with Bird Free disinfectant cleanser.



Less fouled sections were treated with dishes at 300mm centres. Bird Free cleaner still used



Extra dishes should be fitted to corners used by pigeons as observation points.



Bird Free stops pigeons and starlings in council wash down bay. (top pictures)
Bird Free stops pigeons, starlings and mynah birds where ever placed.



Bird Free stops pigeons from roosting on open window ledges (below left).

Bird Free keeps on working years after installation, even in the harshest environment (below right).



Summary

Bird Free Optical Gel is a unique bird repellent product that may solve problems where traditional methods may not have worked or are unsightly.

In conjunction with this manual, it is important to assess the site, think about how to utilize the gels and correctly inform the client of what is expected from the installation.

Providing the installer understands how the product works, what is to be expected from the gel and how the gel is to be correctly installed, Bird Free Optical Gel can be a powerful tool for any bird management situation.

We recommend regularly checking our website, www.birdfree.com.au, for updates and product information.