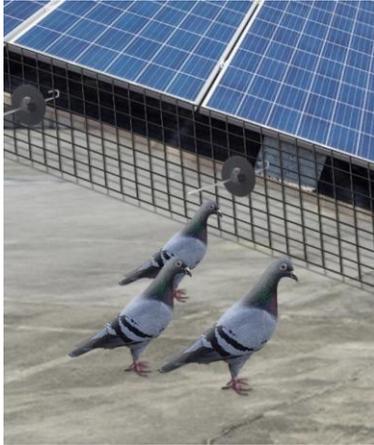


Pigeons and solar panels are not a good combination



Why pigeons and other critters could damage your solar investment

When we finally decide to go solar and make the investment in a system that produces clean energy for our home or business, we don't really think about pests. We are thinking about saving money, producing clean renewable energy and adding to the value of our home or business. After all, the panels are on our roof and out of the way so "What could possibly harm them up there?"

Pigeons and squirrels are infamous pests. They have a history of pecking or chewing into wiring. Solar systems installed on rails or placed close to the roof plane make an attractive shelter for these critters. Pigeons and squirrels love to find places to hide and what better place to hide than under your panels.

Before you read the rest of this article, it is important to remember that a very small percentage of solar customers have this problem. Owning solar is still simple and requires relatively zero maintenance and for those times maintenance is required, it is usually related to manufacturer's equipment and covered by warranty. It's not usually because of pests.

Where pigeons are a problem, the potential damage to both your panels and your roof could be severe. The uric acid in pigeon feces is highly corrosive and can cause extensive damage to metals and other roof materials if the feces sits on them for long periods. Debris from flocks of visiting pigeons can build up in areas they make their home. The corrosive material can eat into the tiles and surface of your roof and create abrasions in the glass of your panels. The birds could also peck at the wiring underneath the panels, pulling them out to provide material for their nests.



Mitigating Pigeon Damage

There are several ways to mitigate or try to prevent any damage that may occur to your solar panels and the roof beneath. There are a variety of pest abatement devices such as critter guards, predatory bird replicas or bird spikes. These devices won't guarantee you will never have a problem with pigeons but they do greatly reduce the odds of it happening.



One of the very best ways to control and possibly prevent nesting under your panels is by installing a critter guard mesh. They are anchored along the entire edge of each of your solar arrays. This helps to prevent the birds from getting under the panels and building a nest.

Sigway Energy is a local solar company that has been serving the Claremont, Inland Valley and High Desert areas for many years. We have installed many pest abatement meshes and even do the cleanup of damage caused by these critters. If you would like more information about that, give us a call at 909.491.9034 or request a quote through our [Sigway Energy Website](#).