

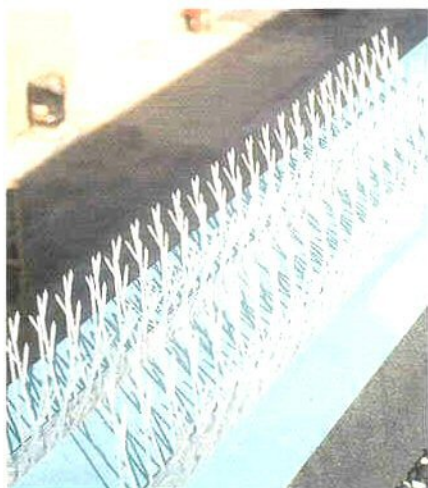
# FieldREPORT

## Humane Solution Solves Pigeon Problems

**A**merican Maintenance Supply, Canyon Country, CA, sells industrial supplies to hotels, governmental agencies and industry nationwide. According to Oswaldo Mercado, founder of the 15-year-old company, many customers – especially hotel restaurants and shopping malls with food courts – need bird-control products because there's a potential pigeon problem wherever there's food. Since it's inhumane to maim or destroy birds – a highly sensitive issue in California and elsewhere – Mercado has found other means to deter birds without harming them.

When a large hotel in the central tourist section of Southern California recently approached Mercado with a pigeon problem, he put his humane solution to the test. "Pigeons were nesting on the window ledges of an 800-room hotel," he says, "and cleaning up bird droppings was a major issue." Keeping the window ledges clean was a problem for the hotel's maintenance crew because the windows could not be opened easily. It was not a pretty sight for hotel guests as bird droppings piled up on what was supposed to be a scenic overlook.

Mercado's solution was to recommend Spikes® Needle Strips. Produced by Chicago, IL-based Bird-X, Inc., Spikes are clear plastic strips of branch-like protuberances that adhere to ledges and other architectural overhangs to disrupt birds'



**Spikes Needle Strips from Bird-X help end pigeon problems without maiming or destroying the birds.**

roosting patterns. The tightly packed Spikes prevent birds from landing and squeezing onto their favorite perches. Spikes come in 1-ft. strips that can be glued to most flat surfaces on buildings,

warehouses, loading docks, overhangs, ledges, fences and similar perches preferred by pigeons.

Mercado encountered another troublesome infestation of pigeons at a high-rise commercial office building. He suggested a combination of approaches because of the complexity of the problem. First, he recommended that his customer use Spikes on the building's garage and on the fence that bordered the office property. Then he recommended coiled wire under beams inside the garage and a tacky substance on the balconies and patios.

"Different locations require different solutions," says Mercado, "but for most customers, Spikes do the job. And they're less expensive than sound generators and other electrical devices."

Mercado says he has invited many customers to try Spikes in a small section for a few weeks as a trial period. "And," he notes, "the trial period usually leads to full-fledged use."

**Bird-X, Inc.**, 300 N. Elizabeth, Chicago, IL 60607; 800-662-5021.

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