

Well it's about that time of year when those pesky little iron-beaked commanders of the air start wreaking havoc around the neighborhood. In many cases, using your building as their own personal rendezvous point for potential mates. Woodpeckers may be a fascinating visitor to some backyards and birdfeeders, but unfortunately we all know how destructive they can be. In fact, for many building owners a woodpecker is the most damaging wildlife problem they can face, causing thousands of dollars in property damage every year.

Problem:

Woodpeckers can't tell the difference between your exterior cladding and dead trees in the forest so it's not uncommon for them to cause significant damage to siding, fascia boards, EIFS and especially those beautiful architectural elements created with foam.

Most people attribute this damage to woodpeckers looking for food, but that is rarely the case.

Actually there are three reasons these birds peck on your walls:

One, they are looking for food.

Two, they're making a nest.

Three, they're establishing and defining their territory.

It's usually the third reason that creates most damage. Woodpeckers are very territorial. In order to let other woodpeckers know - this is his (or in some cases her) territory, they fly around the perimeter of their domain, usually in the morning, and initiate a series of raps on hollow trees or any other cladding that creates the right sound. And for many of us – seems our home creates just the “Right Tone”. This behavior is called “drumming” and consists of two or three long brrrrrrrrrrps. The woodpecker will typically drum in one spot for a minute or so, day after day. It does not take long before a large, irregular hole appears at the drumming site. Not only is this a real eyesore, it can also create problems with water penetration potentially causing rot. When a woodpecker is looking for grubs it acts differently and makes small cone shape or a long gallery of holes. If you ever see a woodpecker searching for insects, it will constantly turn its head as if looking for something on the surface. It is actually listening for grubs feeding in the wall. Then it only makes a hole large enough for its long, thin tongue to catch the bugs. The holes woodpeckers create searching for food are usually less than inch in diameter. A woodpecker will occasionally attempt to excavate out a round nesting hole in the wall, but it's rare and if the wood or surface is solid they usually they give up after a day or two. However in some cases even if they peck a small hole and leave, other birds will take advantage of the destroyed siding and the next thing you know – babies are living in the walls.

Remedies & Government:

Attempts to discourage the onslaught by woodpeckers are almost humorous - plastic owls, rubber snakes, metal window screen, Mylar strips, unsightly bird netting, even trapping and releasing

woodpeckers doesn't do much good. Unless you release them many miles away, they'll just fly back to their own territory within a day or two.

As far as the government is concerned, woodpeckers are classified as migratory, nongame birds and are protected by Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. You can only exercise lethal control or nest destruction with a special permit issued by the Law Enforcement Division of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, upon recommendation of USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services personnel. Not likely!!!

Solution: BeakGuard® - Revolution in product development

Finally a technology in bird deterrents that actually work. "BeakGuard" is a new "Patent Pending" concept incorporating a blend of ingredients that offer safe and effective protection from woodpeckers. These compounds immediately communicate a warning signal to the birds, prompting them to find a more desirable location. In fact, humans and animals are very sensitive to these components. For example - taste testing has determined that people can detect our ingredients in water at 50 parts per billion.

The Product:

BeakGuard is a Breathable Elastomeric Acrylic Finish formulated to apply like standard latex paint. Performance on the other hand far exceeds your typical latex product. BeakGuard offers outstanding coating durability, extended service life, provides maximum dirt pick-up resistance and weatherability in a vapor permeable, flexible membrane with exceptional color retention. Although specifically formulated for EIFS and existing acrylic finishes, BeakGuard® is easily applied to virtually any exterior surface including all wood, fiber-cement, stucco, aluminum or vinyl.

Environmentally Safe:

BeakGuard will not harm woodpeckers or any other bird species. The ingredients in BeakGuard are found in many consumer products on the market today – even nail biting and thumb sucking deterrents for children incorporate this technology. The National Safety Council and American Medical Association recommend similar agents be used, along with other safety measures, in products defined as mild to moderately toxic.

Testing:

After two years of field testing in the most prolific woodpecker areas of the country including Montana, Colorado, South Dakota and Washington, the success rate exceeds 90% in deterring further building damage.

All tests were conducted on building structures experiencing ongoing woodpecker problems:

A remodeled office building outside of Seattle, Washington with large EIFS cornices (coated foam insulation) was assaulted by woodpeckers every season. Some years the drumming resulted in more than ten holes around the building. To make matters worse, many of those holes became nesting sites

