

# Bird Dropping

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## Description

This bulletin describes the do's and don'ts with paint systems contaminated with bird droppings.

## Prevention

### Avoid broad leaf trees

Pigeons, gulls and birds alike prefer to dwell, roost and breed in large trees that are most identifiable by their size and foliage.

### Polish and wax the car

Polish and wax provide an invisible protection for the vehicle and will minimize damage caused by sun, bird droppings (corrosive effects), acid rain and other environmental elements.

## Removal

### Don't wipe dry

All birds eat seeds and also swallow grits, those are not digested and excreted with the lime. When bird dropping is wiped away dry, these particles behave like abrasives and will scratch the paintwork.

For any removal attempt, make sure you wet/soften the droppings first.

### Carbonated water

Store an unopened bottle of (no-salt containing) carbonated water in the car. As soon as the bird dropping is noticed on the vehicle, place a paper tissue on the affected area and pour water on it to soak it, then with plenty of water flow rinse it off. Power/pressure washer is the best, if possible.

## (Long term) Damage

Bird droppings contain acid. The corrosive compounds in the lime can etch through the paint work and discolor cars, leaving a bleached effect.

Birds also swallow grit and small pebbles to aid their digestion, which can scratch the paint work as the lime hits the car.

High heat and/or direct sun light will bake the excrement into the paint work and, if left untreated for an extended period, can cause damage to the exterior coating of the vehicle.

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