



## Starlings: Prevention Tips

Since their introduction to North America in the late 1800s, starling populations have grown significantly, becoming a structural and agricultural nuisance. Avoid costly disruptions by maintaining a bird-free business. Get started today with our prevention tips.

### Where you might see them

- Nesting and roosting on commercial structures.
- Nesting in man-made cavities, such as air vents.
- Agricultural areas, especially fields and vineyards.
- Roosting on electrical and power structures.
- Roosting by the thousands in urban areas.
- Flying in large flocks known as murmurations.

### Tips for prevention

- Seal off any vents before spring to prevent nesting.
- If you find a newly built nest without eggs, remove the nest and seal up the cavity.

- Use a sturdy material to cover any openings/cavities and check it often to make sure it's intact and not being blocked by debris.
- Secure trash bags and waste bins to prevent birds from foraging.
- Droppings can encourage histoplasmosis fungus to grow in the ground soil located under roosting sites – if spores become airborne, they can cause respiratory disease.
- Droppings can also become a liability if someone slips and falls. Consider hiring a company to clean and disinfect high-risk areas.
- Speak to a bird control professional about humane and effective bird control solutions such as using UV, fogging, misting, or other sensory and olfactory repellents.



### ID and biology

- In the winter, starlings have black feathers with white and gold speckles; their bills are dark tan or gray. In the spring, their speckles fade and their black feathers become glossy with iridescent colours of greens and purples; their bills are yellow.
- Starlings are about 20.3 cm long with a short, square tail, and short legs.
- Juvenile starlings have brownish feathers and a brown bill.
- Starlings typically have 2 broods annually, with 4 - 6 eggs per brood.
- Mating season is February through June.

Experience pest-free. Call 866.536.2533 for a FREE consultation or contact us online at [rentokil.com/ca](https://rentokil.com/ca)

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