

Contact us

West Dorset District Council

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Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

Council Offices
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Tel: 01305 838000

Email:
c.care@westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk

Useful contacts

Natural England

Tel: 0845 600 3078

RSPCA

Tel: 0300 1234 999

DEFRA (for wildlife and control advice)

Tel: 08459 33 55 77

Advice on Seagulls



Weymouth & Portland
Borough Council

Advice on Seagulls



Seagulls are a common feature of many seaside towns and are increasingly common in more urban areas due to availability of food and nesting sites.

Gulls can cause problems such as noise nuisance, fouling on washing or cars and swooping at people, usually to protect their chicks or to snatch food.

Like all other wild birds, gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it an offence to intentionally injure or kill any gull, or to take, damage or destroy an active nest or its contents

However General Licences issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) allow control measures to be taken where there are public health or public safety concerns.

The law does not permit control measures for gulls if they are causing noise nuisance or simply damaging property.

Councils have no statutory duty to take action against gulls but can give advice on how to deter birds.

Advice to reduce gull problems

Eating outside

When eating outside around harbours or on the beach seagulls can swoop down and snatch food which can cause distress to adults and children.

It is advised that people consider eating indoors or in sheltered places and do not feed gulls.

Throwing away rubbish

Make sure litter and food waste is put into bins properly.

Do not leave household refuse bags out overnight, try to put them out on the day of collection.

Bin bags on the kerbside attract gulls. Putting refuse bags out on the morning of collection prevents gulls opening or ripping bin bags and causing a mess in the area.

If you have a wheelie bin use it to store waste. Alternatively you can buy lidded refuse bins which will protect your rubbish.

If you unable to get hold of a lidded bin or there is not enough room outside your property to put one, tough hessian reusable seagull-proof bags can be used. Please contact the district or borough council for more information. Alternatively bags can be placed under a blanket or sheet to deter gulls from shredding them.

Nesting & landing on property



Nesting/landing on property

Seagulls normally lay their eggs from May and the first chicks are normally seen at the beginning of June.

There are a number of measures people can take to stop gulls nesting or landing on property. These include:

- Chimney guards to prevent nesting
- Roof Spikes to prevent nesting
- Roof wires and nets to prevent landing
- Disturb previous nesting area – to deter gulls that have nested

It is recommended that property owners seek guidance and advice on what measures may be appropriate from a specialist contractor.

Specialist contractors can be found under 'Pest Control' or 'Bird control' in the Yellow Pages, trade directories or by using the internet.