

# Securing Loose stone on Rooftops

A resource for Strata Committees  
and Building Professionals to  
better understand products and  
methods to prevent falling stone.

**Pour'On**

Gravel Binder

1300 392 155



# Solution - Binding Loose Stone

## What is the 'best choice' to stop falling stone?

Each pest control product has advantages and cost implications. Barrier controls like **bird spikes and netting** are most prevalent in cities, typically as it is the first, simplest barrier control people think of, especially during an urgent situation of birds dropping large stone. However compared to simply binding loose stone, planning and rigging bird netting takes more time and is more complicated, meaning a longer quote-supply-installed lead time.

Other methods such as **electrical ultrasonic deterrents** are expensive and the electrical equipment is exposed to wind and rain and prone to longer term failure. **Chemical baiting** programs are highly effective and more reliable, however these are more labour intense and therefore more costly. **Our cost estimate is provided on page 4.**

## Bind gravel from below! Don't Net from above.

The whole reason natural, loose stone is architecturally specified for rooftops is to protect waterproofing membrane (a man-made, petrochemical product) from the damaging effects of the Sun's UV rays.

Whilst netting is effective and reliable in the short term, it is still a plastic, polyethylene based material. Regardless of netting being UV stabilised and high density woven, it is constantly under tension and exposed to UV all day, every day.

Alternatively, the **PourOn binding resin is never exposed to the sun!** After being poured over dry, existing rooftop stone the polyurethane trickles down, coating the stone and curing dry in 12 hours. This binds the stone into a solid, cross-linked matrix, interlocking at multiple touch points between the stone. The result? A very strong binding matrix that is completely water-inert and never exposed to damaging UV rays.

**PourOn rooftop bound stone experiences practically no erosion** (hidden from UV, Water inert polyurethane no friction or weight from foot traffic, as a rooftop). Consequently, **these rooftops effectively bind stone against pests like birds for exceptionally long periods of time.**

## What Warranties are available to me?

Typically you will find **warranties offered by contractors providing pest control will not cover damage from falling loose stone.** You should double check with your insurance company if such damage is covered by **the buildings' existing Public Liability insurance.** Careful consideration should be given to 'product warranties' offered and the years-in-trading of each company. For example, many **netting suppliers do not warrant damage from storms** (which, realistically is when brittle, 5 year old polyethylene netting is most likely to rip). PourOn offers a 15 year warranty (when installed by PourOn) and extends to re-sealing any areas identified as having loose stone. Please read the last page of this brochure for conditions of this warranty.



# Problem - Loose Rooftop Stone

## Why is large loose stone placed on Rooftops?

Despite the danger of birds dropping loose stone from roof tops, Architects and Builders continue to use loose stone for rooftops. There are very good reasons for this.

All flat-top building roofs must be built with sound drainage and waterproofing. The problem is Waterproofing is a synthetic polymer and highly susceptible to UV damage (particularly given flat roofs are exposed to direct sunlight for up to 12 hours a day). To protect this waterproofing, a stone or paving product must be used to shade the waterproofing and take the full brunt of the Sun's UV.



## Why aren't Rooftops paved or concreted?

A cement slab can not be poured, because the waterproofing and drains must to be accessible for any future repair works. Segmental style pavers like clay and terracotta pavers could be used, but considering the fabrication and installation costs of pavers is significant. Particularly when the area is not even foot-traffikable, paving the rooftop is cost-overkill, even when compared to a cheap concrete.

Use of a common, ubiquitous stone makes sense. It is cheap to source, it incurs little to no processing after extraction from the quarry, and practically zero installation costs as it is hoisted and spread out into place. Larger, 20mm+ size stone is the cheapest as it is not suitable for use on paths or driveway it and therefore sees much less demand in the building industry.

Therefore, raw untreated **larger stone is the most suitable choice to protect waterproofing from UV damage**. Except of course, when birds start picking up and subsequently dropping this loose stone from 4+ stories up!

## Why do Birds pick up stone?

Reasons vary across different bird species. Rather than having teeth to chew with, birds possess a gizzard (similar to a stomach). These birds swallow the stone to help crush up food in the gizzard. Other birds can mistake the stone for food, while some birds are simply curious, playful and pesky with stone!

## Who is responsible for damage by falling stone?

The building owner is responsible for people's safety in and around their property. Unfortunately, this makes the Owners Corporation of residential Strata Title complex's liable for damage caused by birds dropping loose stone from the complex rooftop.

# Summary

of Bird Pest Control products



PourOn gravel Binding  
From as low as \$30/m<sup>2</sup> (supply)



Ultrasonics + Strobes



Hot tracks/wires



Chemical Baiting



Elevated pole Netting



Ballast Netting

	High Cost (m <sup>2</sup> /Yr)	Mid Cost (m <sup>2</sup> /Yr)	DIY Cost Option	ZERO UV damage	Solved in 24hrs	Looks Good	Safe - all Animals	15 Year warranty*	Non Invasive installation
PourOn gravel Binding From as low as \$30/m <sup>2</sup> (supply)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ultrasonics + Strobes	✓				✓	✓			
Hot tracks/wires	✓								
Chemical Baiting	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Elevated pole Netting	✓								
Ballast Netting	✓			✓					

15 Year warranty applies to PourOn installed by StoneSet (or StoneSet 'Approved Installer'). A full 15 year warranty applies for non-trafficked rooftops with a maximum 20mm size stone. Warranty covers re-sealing areas identified as having loose stone and does not cover damage to property or injury caused by falling loose stone.