

Open the gate

If you already have a mother duck with ducklings, you can leave the gate open for them to waddle out (if you don't have pets).

Once they have left on their own, you can close the gate behind them and leave a pool floaty in the pool to deter the mother from bringing her ducklings back.

Pool covers

Pool covers that are properly installed can help deter ducks from laying eggs since they won't be able to go into the pool for a swim.

Although some websites state fishing line and pool nets help in keeping birds out of your pool, this is in fact inhumane since animals can get stuck or severely injured. This is not a great way to keep them out and can actually cause a bigger issue than you may think.

Decoys

Placing raptor decoys around your property will prevent mother duck from wanting to lay her eggs where there are predators.



Warning:

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prevents any removal, relocation, destruction, and disturbance of any migratory bird which includes ducks and their nests if eggs have been laid. Violation of this law can result in a Federal Charge. Feeding of wildlife is also prohibited under the California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 251.1 and a violation of this section can result in misdemeanor charges.



MISSION VIEJO
ANIMAL SERVICES

28095 Hillcrest, Mission Viejo, CA, 92880

949-470-3045

cmvas.org

DUCKS IN RESIDENTIAL POOLS





Pool Floaties

If there is a crocodile lurking in the water, you would not want to jump in and neither will a mother duck. There are plastic crocodile floaties that are specifically designed to scare animals away. These floats will make a mother duck look for a safer location to lay her eggs and take a swim. Other floaties can also be used as long as they resemble a predatory animal.

Hazing

If you see a female and a male duck visiting your yard/pool in the evening time, it means they are looking for a nesting site. The best thing to do is to scare them away. You can do this by running at them or waving your arms. If you have a dog, your dog can scare them away as long as it does not come in contact with them. This will cause the pair to look elsewhere.

What better place to lay eggs than a backyard pool. Female and male ducks will be looking for a place to nest from February to May. They will visit potential nesting sites usually in the evening. The female is more vocal around this time and is alert. They will look for tall grasses, shrubs, even hedges to lay eggs. Once the eggs are laid, it will take about 25 days for the eggs to hatch. Once the eggs have all hatched, the mother duck will lead her ducklings to water. Ducklings are natural born swimmers! However, sometimes ducklings aren't able to jump out of your pool and will drown. There are many helpful and legal ways to prevent that from happening as well as tips on how to prevent ducks from choosing your beautiful yard and pool as a nursery.



Ramps & Stairs

Installing a ramp or pool steps will help ducklings get out of the pool safely. This will prevent them from drowning in your pool. If you don't have a pool ramp or float, and ducklings are actively in your pool and they are struggling to get out, use your pool net to scoop them out and place them on the outside of your pool. They might jump back in so the best thing you can do is make a raft that they can jump on.

