



Woodpecker-Feeder.com

"Natural woodpecker feeders that your woodpeckers and other clinging birds will LOVE!"

You are now the proud owner of a quality, handcrafted 'Angle' suet woodpecker feeder from Woodpecker-Feeder.com. Here are some tips to get you started. Also, be sure to refer to our website, www.woodpecker-feeder.com, for additional instructions and tips.

Installing Your 'Angle' Feeder. Your woodpecker feeder comes fully assembled and ready to hang. You can use the supplied hook for use with a pole/hanging arm system or you can attach string, wire, or cable to the feeder for hanging. If you hang your feeder from a tree branch, be sure to use a string, wire, or cable that allows the feeder to hang at least 5-7 feet from the tree trunk and 4-5 feet down from the branch. The best hanging location is away from other feeders, suspended on a wire or cable. This removes nearly all starling "launch points," except for the top of the feeder, itself. You can add a dome or cone-shaped baffle to the top of your woodpecker feeder to keep starlings from launching off the top of the feeder.

About Starlings. With our 'Angle' woodpecker feeder, the food ports are such that starlings can usually do nothing more than briefly flutter underneath the feeder and stab at the food. Since they don't get much food with each effort, after four or five attempts they move on to easier food options. Starlings will feed off the ground in search for suet pieces that fall off the feeder. Probably the busiest (and most desperate) time for starlings is when they are feeding their fledglings and they have a greater 'sense of urgency.'

Alternate Food Sources. One way to keep squirrels and even starlings less interested in your woodpecker feeder is to give them an alternate food source. We sprinkle corn kernels around the base of our feeder system for the squirrels and they also spend quite a bit of time foraging in the grass for seeds scattered by birds on the feeders. We also put out some inexpensive cake suet which fulfills starling's suet needs and makes them less inclined to investigate our woodpecker feeder.

Unfortunately, you can not make your bird feeder site "starling-proof," but you certainly can make it "starling-resistant." We provide a tube-type peanut feeder which the starlings really like. Since it is impossible to totally keep the starlings away from the feeder area, we at least want them to work for their food and the peanut feeder makes them work.

Filling Your Feeder. Using our recommended suet, you can easily fill your woodpecker feeder. With our unique 'Angle' feeder design, there are 4 separate feeding ports. Here is the simple step-by-step process. First, slice a full-sized suet tube into 4 equal parts. The suet is easily molded like clay or play dough. NOTE: The suet can be refrigerated or even frozen, but is best (and most pliable) used at room temperature. If it's still too stiff, just microwave it for a few seconds. Then, simply drop a ¼ suet tube into a feeding port and press it firmly into the hole such that it fans out to completely cover the opening of the hole. Soften up the 2nd ¼ piece and firmly press it into the ¼ piece you just inserted. That should completely fill the hole.

Working the Angle

There are 3 different hanging positions for your woodpecker feeder. To introduce your woodpeckers to the new feeder, try hanging the feeder in its more upright (vertical) position. This will show the suet to them, letting them know that they have a new food source. Once trained, woodpeckers will actually move around the feeder, checking all the food ports for suet. If you don't have any starlings hanging on to your feeder, you may wish to leave it in the most vertical position. Otherwise, you may opt to gradually shift the feeder to a more horizontal position, making it near impossible for starlings to hang on to the feeder. All starlings can do is flutter underneath the feeder and stab at the suet.

Maintaining Your Feeder. Typically, woodpeckers do a pretty thorough job of cleaning suet out from each of the feeding ports. But if they don't, your woodpecker feeder is designed for easy maintenance. To clean these food ports, simply use a small bottle brush, the tip of a small screwdriver, or even a letter opener to clean the holes out. You can also remove the back cover for an even more thorough feeder cleaning. We also offer a complete maintenance kit for those who don't want to assemble their own tools.

IMPORTANT: Store your suet in a plastic, zip-lockable bag to keep it fresh. This is necessary so you can maintain the correct suet moisture consistency when loading your woodpecker feeder feeding ports. Also, suet should be loaded into the feeder at room temperature. **Ordering Suet:** You can order additional suet directly from our website, www.woodpecker-feeder.com, or you may find it at wild bird food stores. We offer excellent discounts on quantity suet purchases.