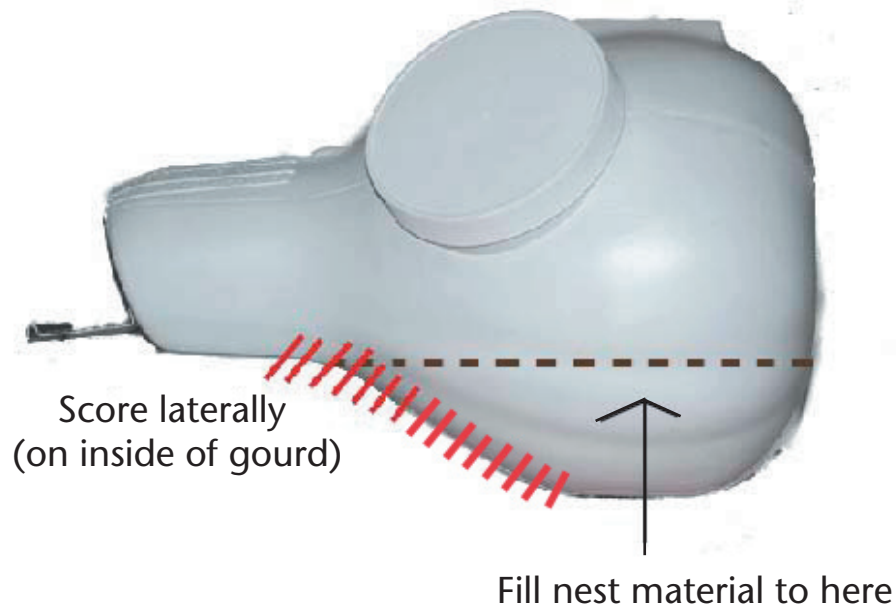


Attention

In our continuing efforts to improve the safety and success of breeding martins, the PMCA often offers suggestions and modifications, which landlords can apply to their martin housing to make it as safe and successful as possible. In light of a few recent reports from landlords, the PMCA has issued the following advisory regarding this product:

PRODUCT ADVISORY:

The manufacturer's instructions that come with the Troyer Horizontal Gourds emphasizes the importance of filling the gourd to the neck with nesting material. Recent evidence suggests that adding nesting material to this gourd can be **critically important**, as it assists the martins in exiting the gourd. Without sufficient nest material or an alternative means of traction, some martins may have a difficult time negotiating the slope that leads to the exit. (See photo below.)



In addition, the PMCA strongly recommends that landlords “rough up” the ascending interior slope of the Troyer gourds to provide additional traction for exiting martins. This can be done using a dremel tool, by scoring lateral lines with a knife, or adhering anti-skid tape (brand name 3-M or similar) to the inside slope.

Although Troyer gourds are intended to be offered **only** with ample nesting material provided, the PMCA recognizes that this safety measure is contingent upon the consumer providing it. Consequently, the PMCA is encouraging the manufacturer to improve the Troyer Horizontal gourd by incorporating a non-slip feature that is integral to the gourd's design.

In the meantime, the PMCA submits to consumers that this product is used with very good success throughout the Purple Martins' breeding range. Please follow instructions for inserting nest material and consider providing additional traction to ensure the safest and most productive martin season possible.

Purple Martin Conservation Association
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
219 Meadville St
Edinboro, PA 16444
www.purplemartin.org (web)
814-734-4420 (phone)
814-734-5803 (fax)