

# HOW DO I HELP PREVENT BIRD WINDOW STRIKES AT MY HOME OR WORKPLACE?

*An estimated one billion birds die each year from collisions with glass on residential and commercial buildings—that's more avian deaths than from any other human-related cause, with the exception of habitat destruction.*

Birds strike windows because they perceive flight paths in window reflections. A home may kill a dozen or more birds a year without the owner being aware. Even if a bird flies away after striking a window, he or she may die elsewhere as a result of the collision. Affixing single decals to windows is not enough to deter birds.

## EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

### 1. Apply visible markings to the outside of windows in patterns the birds can see.

Most birds will avoid windows with vertical stripes spaced 4 inches apart or less, or horizontal stripes spaced 2 inches apart or less. Stripes should be at least 0.25 inches wide, and light colors are usually more visible.

Acopian Bird Savers (or parachute cords) are a popular option, as are strung beads or bamboo sections hung with the same spacing as stripes. One-way window films such as CollidEscape also work well.

For more information, view this PDF (<http://bit.ly/ABCbirdsflyer>).

### 2. Cover window exteriors with conventional screens or netting that affixes to the glass using hooks, clips or suction cups.

This reduces the reflection and prevents injury by cushioning birds if they hit the windows.

### 3. If you feed birds, move feeders to within 1.5 feet of windows.

From this distance, birds at the feeders won't be able to build up enough momentum to hurt themselves if they do fly into the glass.

### 4. Close blinds and curtains on "flight path windows" whenever possible.

Some window and window/mirror combinations give the illusion of a clear flight path.

### 5. Move houseplants away from windows.

Birds may view them as refuges and try to perch on them.

### 6. Encourage building managers to turn off architectural and window lighting overnight during the spring and fall migration seasons to help protect migratory birds as well as save energy.

When designing bird-friendly buildings, avoid featuring windows on each side of a room, which lead birds to perceive that they can fly through the room. These guidelines (<http://bit.ly/TorontoGuidelines>) offer development strategies to make new and existing buildings less dangerous to migratory birds.

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## USEFUL RESOURCES

**ABC Bird Tape**  
<http://www.abcbirdtape.org>

**Fritted Windows**  
<http://www.goldrayindustries.com>

**Acopian Bird Savers**  
<http://www.birdsavers.com/>

**American Bird Conservancy**  
<http://bit.ly/ABCbirdsflyer>

**CollidEscape**  
<http://www.collidescape.org>

**Acid-Etched Windows**  
<http://www.walkerlass.com>

**Acopian Center for Ornithology**  
<http://bit.ly/AcopCtr>

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology**  
<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>

**Ornithological Society of North America**  
<https://www.osnabirds.org>

**City of Toronto Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines**  
<http://bit.ly/TorontoGuidelines>

### 7. Use fritted or acid-etched glass when replacing windows or in new construction.

Patterned or "fritted" glass features dots of various sizes and densities that embed a translucent or opaque image or abstract pattern. The image in the glass projects enough visual markers for birds to perceive them. Acid-etched glass creates a translucent satin appearance that effectively obscures views while maintaining a high level of light transmittance. Such architectural designs can be creative and beautiful while preventing bird strikes, reducing solar gain and saving energy. Try Goldray Industries Ltd. (<http://www.goldrayindustries.com>) for fritted windows and Walker Glass Co. (<http://www.walkerlass.com>) for acid-etched windows.

### 8. Advocate for the design of building surfaces that make glass more visible to birds.

This is fundamental in reducing bird-window collision injury and mortality. The American Bird Conservancy offers several examples to encourage bird-friendly building designs.

*Note: Suspension bridges, wind turbines and other structures also result in bird injury and mortality. These structures can be designed or retrofitted to reduce this threat.*

## HOW DO I HELP A BIRD WHO HAS SURVIVED A WINDOW STRIKE—or for that matter any adult bird who appears stunned and cannot fly?

Carefully place the bird in a box lined with *clean* cloth or paper towels and containing small air holes. Make sure the bird is upright and not lying on his side. Do not offer food or water. Move the box indoors, away from predators, to a dark, warm and quiet location. If the bird has obvious external injuries, find a rehabilitator through the Animal Help Now smartphone app or website (<http://www.ahnow.org>)

If the bird has no obvious injuries, wait 30-60 minutes, and then check to see if he can fly. A small room such as a bathroom is recommended. Close the door, toilet bowl lid and window curtains, and cover any mirrors. Place the box on the floor and carefully open the top.

If the bird flies "up", recapture him (tossing a lightweight towel or blanket over him, if necessary) and release him outside near where he was found and away from roads, predators and other threats. If you are unable to recapture him, open the window and allow him to fly out on his own.

If the bird does not fly up, recapture him if necessary, and contact a wildlife rehabilitator through Animal Help Now.



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Website: (<http://www.AnimalHelpNow.org>)  
Smartphone app: Search stores for Animal Help Now

*For more information on helping animals, go to the Animal Help Now Resources page (<http://www.ahnow.org/resources.php>)*