



YOU Can Save Birds from Flying into Windows



Millions of birds die every year flying into windows. They can't tell reflections from trees, plants, and sky. *Most of those windows are on houses.*

If you've never had a bird hit your window, you have been lucky - so far. More likely, you weren't around to see or hear it when it happened, and the bird either flew off to die in another place or was eaten by a predator.

Unfortunately, sooner or later, your windows may kill a bird.



Wood Thrush killed after colliding with a window. Photo: Mike Parr

Not All Windows Are Dangerous

Check to see if any of your windows are reflective and if they are close to areas where birds are active. **Even small windows can be hazardous.** Many birds fly into small spaces such as tree cavities or between branches. And remember, collisions happen more frequently during spring and fall migrations.

There Are Solutions to Alert Birds

The easiest way to alert birds to windows is by applying visible markings on the outside of windows. Use patterns that the birds can see. But make sure not to use so much that you can't see out your window! *See the back of this flyer for some ideas.*



Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC

Even the small windows on this garage door can pose a threat to birds. Notice the trees and sky reflected in the window!

We May Not Have All the Answers

We do know that most birds avoid windows with 1/4 inch wide, white, vertical stripes spaced four inches apart, *or* 1/8 inch wide, black, horizontal stripes spaced one inch apart. Complicated or irregular patterns will also work as long as they follow the same spacing guidelines.

On the other side of this flyer, you will find information on some products you can use to help prevent birds from hitting your windows. Websites are also provided to find these products.



Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC

Dark horizontal stripes spaced one inch apart are an effective way to keep birds from hitting your windows



Here are some quick and affordable ways to protect birds from hitting windows. Apply these to the outside of the glass.



Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC

Tempera Paint

Apply Tempera paint (available at most art supply and craft stores) with brush or sponge, or use a stencil. Tempera is long-lasting, even in rain, and non-toxic, but comes right off with a damp rag or sponge. Find stencils at www.michaels.com, www.amazon.com, or download stencils for free at www.spraypaintstencils.com.

Tape

Use tape to create patterns. Duct tape comes in a variety of colors and tears easily to make lines of different widths. Chart tape (www.magnatag.com) comes in different widths (chart tape may require a utility knife to remove).



Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC

Netting

If you don't want to alter the glass, you can stretch lightweight netting, screen, or other material over the window. The netting must be several inches in front of the window so birds don't hit the glass after hitting the net. Several companies (www.birdbgone.com, www.birdscreen.com) sell screens that can be attached with suction cups or eye hooks (also see www.nixalite.com, www.birdmaster.com).



Photo: John Pace, BirdMaster, Bird Control Systems

Decals

Decals are an alternative, but, to be effective, they must be spaced closer than recommended by manufacturers. This may block more of the window than other options (www.pines.com, www.windowdressingetc.com). Or make your own! *Arti Stick Window Color* paints come in 18 colors. Drawings on sheets of plastic become translucent as they dry, and can be peeled off and applied to windows (www.budgetartkids.com, www.dickblick.com, www.artsuppliesforartists.com).

Window Films

Most window films designed for external use are not patterned and will not deter birds. However, interior window films come in many colors and styles, and can be applied on the outside of windows to prevent collisions (www.thesunshieldpros.us, www.fauxdecorandmore.com). Collid-Escape, designed for external use, is see-through from the inside, opaque from the outside (www.lfdcollidescape.com).

For More Information:



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