HOMES SAFE FOR BIRDS

Windows are everywhere – in our houses, cottages, condos, apartments, even balconies. Unfortunately, birds that make their homes in meadows, woods or wetlands have no concept of glass. This is especially true for birds migrating during spring and fall. For them, glass can be deadly.

Most people have experienced the heartbreaking thud of a bird hitting a window.

Canadian research\(^1\) estimates 25 million birds fatally collide with windows at low, mid and high-rise buildings annually.

*Windows deceive birds.* Reflected trees or sky, a tempting potted plant seen through glass, or a view straight through the building or glass balcony railing can trick birds into thinking that they can sail through to the other side. Birds that do not die on impact can go into shock, becoming easy prey for predators such as cats.

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\(^1\)Quantifying Human-related Mortality of Birds in Canada, September 2019
What to do if you find an injured bird

Should a bird hit your window, gently place it inside an unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box firmly secured. Place it in a quiet location away from people and pets. Do not give the bird food or water. Contact your local wildlife rehabilitator for further instructions.

Reporting bird/window collisions

Should you find a bird injured or killed by a window collision, please contribute to research by recording the incident on the FLAP Mapper, a citizen-science global mapping database at flap.org/mapper_guide.

About FLAP Canada

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada is a registered charity (CRA# 14074 6736 RR0001) working to safeguard migratory birds in the built environment through policy development, research, education, collision prevention, rescue and rehabilitation. Together with partners in governments, businesses and communities, our organization promotes bird-safe practices and engages in conservation in-action. To learn more or donate, contact us at flap@flap.org or visit flap.org.

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Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

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We can take simple, effective measures to help keep birds safe.

Be creative by treating your glass like a canvas. Here are some attractive and cost-effective techniques.

**Bird-Safe Design**

1. Uniformly cover the outside of windows with a contrasting pattern of any shape, keeping these visual markers no more than 10 cm (4 inches) apart vertically or 5 cm (2 inches) horizontally. To help keep smaller birds such as hummingbirds and warblers safe, a window must have no reflective openings larger than 5 x 5 cm (2 x 2 inches).

2. Hang ribbons or strings on the outside of your windows 10 cm (4 inches) apart.

3. Place this opening over various areas of your treated window. If no markers can be seen, the spacing is too big.

4. **Feather Friendly® Residential Tape**

*Photograph courtesy The Conserve Group*
> **Draw patterns** on your windows with a bar of soap or highlighter pen. You may need to repeat this after every rainfall.

> **Bird Screen**

> **Apply special film** on the outside of your windows.

> **Install externally** mounted window screens using window mounts or suction cups.

> **Visit flap.org/residential** for more bird-saving tips, including ideas that homeowners have implemented, as well as measures that don't work.
Now that you have made your windows safer for birds, here are some important additional tips:

- Position your bird feeders and birdbaths half a metre (1.5 feet) or less from your windows. Over this short distance, birds cannot build up enough momentum to injure themselves should they hit your window. The closer the feeder to your window, the better for the birds and your viewing! (See the graphic on the left.)

- Move houseplants away from your windows or install blinds to be drawn during the day with slats turned open.

- Protect your cat & wildlife from harm by keeping your cat indoors. Visit keepanimalssafe.ca. The image below captures 3 important messages: cats indoors, bird-safe markers applied to windows and bird feeders close to windows.

- Plant native trees, shrubs and flowering plants in your yard to provide food and nesting areas for birds. Visit nanps.org for tips.