

Avoid Bird Collisions at Windows

Making Buildings Bird-Friendly

It has been estimated that 975 million migratory birds are killed every year in the United States by flying into plate glass windows. Birds cannot perceive transparent or reflective glass as a barrier to be avoided. The hazard to birds is greatly increased when habitat is reflected by large panes of glass, or when transparent glass allows views of habitat on the other side of a building or views of plants inside the building.

Bird collisions with glass is an issue that can be addressed at many buildings, especially buildings that serve as Nature Centers, Wildlife Refuge Visitor Centers and at educational facilities. These facilities can help educate the public about the magnitude of unnecessary bird deaths due to collisions with windows through demonstrating ways to reduce this threat at their own buildings.

Please help American Bird Conservancy make windows and buildings more bird-friendly by using doing the following:

- Use a technique of 1. Placing taut netting over exterior windows so that if birds hit, they bounce off like a trampoline. 2. Using window film on the outside of windows that makes glass appear opaque from the exterior, but remains transparent from the interior. It can be left plain, cut into strips and installed as a striped pattern, or pre-printed to incorporate a pattern or logo. 3. Interrupting reflections with a dense pattern applied with paint or decals on the outside of the window.
- Pass out the attached handout (created with a space for your organizations name and contact information)
- Involve the community in the solutions of the problem through a community day or other planned activity at your location.

For more information, please contact:

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Window Treatments to Prevent Bird Collisions

The following is a list of specific products and Ideas to treat windows to greatly reduce or eliminate collisions: The chart shows comparison information, and images on following pages for how windows look when treated.

- **Bird Screen** Netting is a commercial product that is attached to the outside of windows with suction cups or eye hooks. It is easily installed, easily removed for window cleaning, and extremely effective in eliminating injury and death. See www.birdscreen.com It is sized more for the residential than the commercial market. A picture window that is 6' high and 6' wide requires installation of 2 screens and 2 mid-screen brackets to maintain proper tension throughout the screened area. The screen must remain taut when it is hit by a bird or it will deflect too much and not prevent the bird from hitting the window behind it. Bird Screen is available in 24", 30" and 36" wide segments, all 6' in length which can be cut to size as required. For very large windows, **additional screening options** are available, adapted from systems used to protect crops, trees and buildings from damage by birds.
- **Bird-B-Gone** www.birdbgone.com has ¾" polyethylene knotted netting and polypropylene plastic netting which is inexpensive, but requires special attachment devices, wires and tools for installation. If covering a very large plate glass window, adequate tension must be maintained throughout the net to keep deflection at a minimum when a bird hits. This may require the net be installed as much as 12" away from the glass (See image for Toronto office building). Professional guidance may be required for proper installation.
- **External Film** that makes the glass appear opaque from the outside, but is still transparent from the interior of the building, is available from several companies, including 3M and Large Format Digital. One of these products is marketed as **CollidEscape** www.lfdcollidescape.com . These films can also be cut into 3-4" wide bands and installed in a striped pattern (with 3-4" between vertical stripes) which creates an attractive and less opaque effect. The product is perforated with many small holes, and adheres to the glass with static cling. We know of a home installation that has been in place for 10 years without deterioration. Easily installed, this is a very effective option.
- **External decals** such as **Whispering Windows** www.wpines.com are white or white/black decals in the shape of birds (Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Cardinals), Butterflies, etc. Each package has 8 decals, each decal ranges in size from 4X4" to 4"X6". The best experimental evidence we have indicates that only by **spacing decals with no more than 4" between vertical elements and 2" between horizontal elements** will the pattern be dense enough to stop collisions. **This represents a greater number of decals per window than what is shown on the web site.** Many other sources for decals exist in the marketplace.



- There are other methods that are less expensive, more “informal” and temporary, but just as effective in breaking up reflections of habitat in glass. For example, windows at the Regenstein Center at the Chicago Botanic Gardens were treated by using a shading compound, which is a paint that is diluted and applied to greenhouse windows to protect interior plants from intense sunlight. www.greenhousemegastore.com Volunteers from all departments used sponges to paint closely-spaced circles on the windows of several buildings. At the end of migration season, the painted circles were removed from the windows. This product is available from a number of manufacturers with varying levels of permanence or ease of removal. The “regular” or “permastick” product is recommended, depending on exposure to rain and on the anticipated number of applications (year round vs. migration season). A stencil can be used instead of a sponge if a more uniform look to the window decoration is desired. .

Product	Approximate Cost to Cover Window 72”X72” (36 sq. ft.)	Contact Information
CollidEscape Removable film that adheres to the surface of glass (\$3 sq. ft.)	\$54. 3”stripe, 3”space \$108. Solid white \$180. Printed	CollidEscape www.lfdcollidescape.com 608-241-9533
BirdScreen Removable fiberglass screen that is Attached to exterior surface of glass (2 screens + 2 mid-screen frames)	\$70.	The Bird Screen Company www.birdscreen.com 717-445-9609
Decals 4” decals, use 6 per ft. sq. on exterior of the glass. (\$6.99/8 decals)	\$144.	Whispering Windows www.wpines.com 888-882-8344
Shading Compound Paint Diluted and applied to exterior of glass 1 gallon @ 1:15 gallons water covers 175 sq. ft.	Less than \$20, but requires one 5 gallon purchase @ \$100-150.	Greenhouse Megastore www.greenhousemegastore.com 1-888-281-9337
Bird B Gone Architectural Net Polyethylene knotted or polypropylene plastic netting.	Netting .30/sq. ft. but also requires corner and intermediate attachments; straining wire, turnbuckles, hog rings, special installation tools. Estimate requires quote from company.	Bird B Gone www.birdbgone.com 1-800-392-6915;949-472-3122