# How to Make Your Home Bird-Friendly



## What causes birds to fly into buildings?

### During the day



Birds can see through glass and see reflections, but they cannot detect the glass itself.

When birds see reflections of a landscape or a plant on the other side of a window, they may think they are flying toward a safe place to rest and feed.

### At night




Many birds travel at night and use patterns of stars in the sky to guide them. Bright lights from buildings can disorient them.

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## Why are bird-safe buildings important?

Over

**1 Billion**

birds die from collisions with windows each year across North America.

About

**36%**

of bird deaths happen at our homes and cottages.

## How to make your home bird-friendly

### 1 Reduce window transparency and reflectivity

- Apply visual markers to windows to help prevent birds from flying into them. The markers must meet the following requirements



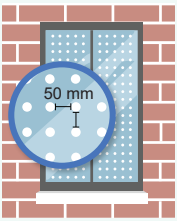
**Glass Surface**

Visual markers must be on the exterior surface of the window



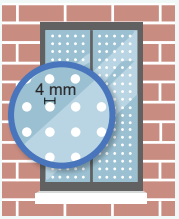
**Marker Contrast**

Visual markers must be in high contrast to the window surface under varying daylight conditions (sun, overcast, shading, etc.).



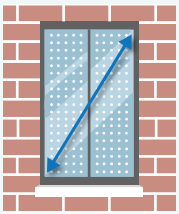

**Density of Marker Pattern**

There must be no more than 50 mm between visual markers.



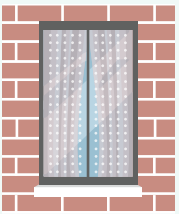

**Size of Marker**

Visual markers must be a minimum of 4 mm in diameter for individual elements or 2 mm wide by 8 mm long for linear elements.



**Marker Coverage**

Visual marker patterns must cover the entire surface of the window.



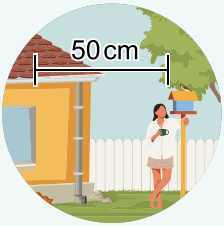
**Close the Curtains**

Close your curtains and blinds during the day; this will keep your home cooler too!



## 2 Move houseplants

- Move your plants away from the window to prevent birds from being attracted to them.



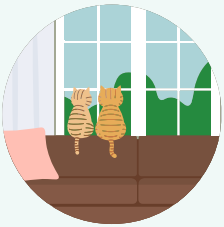

## 3 Relocate your birdfeeder

- Place your bird feeder 50 cm or more away from windows.



## 4 Turn off your lights

- Turn off lights when they are not needed, especially at night. This helps to keep birds safe and save energy!
- Ensure outdoor lights face downwards and away from reflective surfaces.



## 5 Keep cats indoors

- If you own a cat, please do not let your cat roam freely outdoors for the protection of birds and the cat's own safety.
- The City of Markham's Animal Protection and Services By-law requires cat owners to keep their cats on their property and not allow them to roam freely. Violators are subject to a penalty of $350.



## What should you do if you find a bird that was injured or killed by a window collision?

The City of Markham Animal Services Department responds to reports involving domestic animals and wildlife, including birds. If you find an injured bird, contact Animal Services at 905.415.7531. Staff will provide assistance and coordinate the appropriate response and care.

Through the City's wildlife rehabilitation program and partnership with Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge, injured birds and other wildlife can receive professional care and treatment with the goal of rehabilitation and release back into the wild whenever possible.

Additional information is available through the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada at www.flap.org/found-a-bird. It provides guidance on what to do if you find an injured or deceased bird following a window collision. Residents are also encouraged to report bird-window collisions through FLAP Canada's Global Bird Collision Mapper (www.birdmapper.org) to help researchers learn where collisions happen and how to prevent them.

## Learn more

To learn more about Markham's Bird-Friendly Guidelines, please visit the City's Bird-Friendly Guidelines web page at markham.ca/BirdFriendlyGuidelines or scan the QR code for more information.

