



Bird Friendly Homes

In the United States., between 365 million and 1 billion birds die annually from colliding with buildings. While high rise towers are often associated with these collisions, forty-four percent of these collisions actually occur at residences – that’s nearly half of all deaths! These deaths are due to reflective or overly transparent glass as well as nocturnal lighting. Luckily, many simple, economical solutions have been created to make homes more bird-friendly.

Windows

Glass is a major cause of bird collisions because birds cannot distinguish actual habitat and open sky from the reflections created by windows. Applying patterns to the exterior surface of windows is an effective solution. The following list provides a sample of products shown to reduce collisions:

- ABC BirdTape (www.collidescape.org/abc-birdtape)
- Acopian BirdSavers (www.birdsavers.com)
- CollidEscape (www.collidescape.org)
- External screens

For more information, visit <https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/>.



4x2

No matter what application you choose to make your windows bird safe, make sure it abides by the 4x2 rule. The 4x2 rule states that for a window to be bird safe, a marker of some sort must be present at a 4-inch interval horizontally and 2-inch interval vertically. Any segment of bare glass larger than that can still cause deadly collisions.

Bird Feeders

Feeder placement can also help reduce bird collisions. Birds can strike nearby windows as they are leaving bird feeders, resulting in death or vulnerability to predators. There are many ways to make sure your bird feeders are safe for birds to visit:

- Place feeders directly on the glass at a picture window
- Place feeders very close or very far from glass
- Apply exterior treatments to nearby windows



Lighting

Nighttime lights can disorient migrating birds causing them to crash into structures or trapping them in beams of light where they die from exhaustion. Implementing the following lighting solutions can help:

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish spot and flood lights
- Substitute strobe lighting where possible
- Turn off interior lights, particularly on upper floors
- Orient exterior lighting downward or limit to ground level

If you have already made adjustments to your lighting, take the Lights Out Atlanta pledge! Visit <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/lights-out-atlanta> for more information.