Help! How do I stop birds from hitting our windows?

There are many options, but first let’s talk about what doesn’t work: widely spaced decals such as hawk silhouettes, birds or butterflies, or UV-reflective stickers. These have been tested and found not to be effective, even when installed according to the manufacturers’ instructions.

Feeders (and bird baths) should be positioned as close as possible to the window—within two feet! (You can even buy feeders that affix to glass.) This creates a safe target just short of the window, as well as a safe launch pad for when the bird leaves the feeder. Birds leaving feeders that are farther away may fly to a reflection of foliage on the glass.

A Zen Curtain is an array of cords that hangs down in front of a window. The cords sway in a breeze, which has a calming effect on people. But it also creates a visual disturbance for birds that deters them from trying to fly through. Works great!

You can make an effective curtain at no cost using natural materials, such as twine and pine cones.

American Bird Conservancy BirdTape comes in translucent strips or squares and is highly effective and affordable.

Feather-Friendly pattern tape makes a grid of dots two inches apart. It interferes very little with viewability from the interior. Inexpensive, easy to apply, and made to withstand brutal Canadian winters!

SOLYX Bird Safety Film is a polyester film with horizontal lines 2-inches apart. Most people find viewability to be quite acceptable. Professional installation recommended.

These products must be ordered online. For information, including links to product websites, visit:

- Birdsmartglass.org
- birdsafe.ca/homes-safe-for-birds/
- collidescape.org/abc-birdtape
- conveniencegroup.com/featherfriendly/feather-friendly/
- Central New Mexico
- Audubon Society