

Birds have no concept of glass. Windows are invisible to them. Go outside and look at your windows from a bird's point of view. When you see branches or sky reflected in or visible through the glass, this is what a birds sees. The window looks like a safe place to fly. To help birds, we need to change the **outside** of our windows. Birds must see that it is not a place to fly. A single decal or picture is not enough. Here are a couple of projects that will help you to minimize the risk to birds in your yard. [Nature Canada](#) has more ideas to keep birds safe.

## Window Paintings

This is a simple protect and can protect birds from striking your windows. It is easy to clean up and make new again and again. Remember, work on the outside of the window.



### Supplies:

- 1 cup of flour,
- 1 cup of water,
- 1 cup of liquid dish soap
- food colouring
- mixing bowl, wooden spoon, spoons or stir sticks
- small jars, containers or a muffin tin
- artist's paint brushes, sponges, foam brushes, cotton
- Warm water, sponges, spray bottles for a clean slate to start again

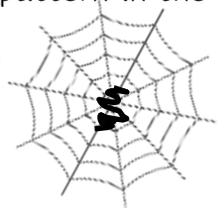
**or** Use tempera paint mixed with liquid dish soap, or baby shampoo. Adding a little cornstarch creates a thicker paint, less likely to drip or run.

### Procedures:

1. Place flour in bowl add water and soap. Mix until smooth, pour or spoon into jars.
2. Add food colouring to suit, Mix your own colors by combining food coloring shades. Red and blue make purple, while yellow and blue create green, red and yellow for orange.
3. Consider covering the window sill and frame with newspaper to protect from drips or spills. Tape the paper in place with painter's tape.
4. Get creative. Paint designs with brushes, foam brushes or cotton swabs. Make craft stamps, cut shapes out of craft foam or scrap upholstery foam. Use stencils to create designs. Tape the stencils in place; apply paint with a foam brush or sponge.
5. When it is time to change the art, hose off the paint. Finish the clean up with water and vinegar and lint free cloths (paper towel will leave lint on the glass).

**Tip:** Learn more about preventing bird strikes and longer lasting solution [Flap](#) and [Bird Safe](#).

Like windows, spider webs are difficult for birds to see. Some spiders use a heavy zigzag pattern in the center of the web to alert birds. Use a bar of soap to draw a large orb web on your window (outside). Space the lines 5 cm apart or less, add a center zigzag and birds should stay away.



## Create a Bird Alert

Hang your homemade Bird Alert outside your window to help keep birds away. It is best if it can move and turn in the breeze.



### Supplies:

- \* 2 old CDs or DVDs
- \* permanent markers
- \* weather proof glue
- \* colored cellophane (candy or gift basket wrap), foil chip bags, decorative sleeve for potted plants
- \* coloured ribbon or a yarn that will flatten between the CDs



### Procedure:

1. Decorate shiny side of CD (not the label) with permanent marker (take care they can smudge, leave for a few moments to cure).
2. Cut legs, beak, feathers, fins, or petals from cellophane and glue to label side of one CD.
3. Glue 2 CDs, label to label, with ribbon in between
4. Hang out side your window to keep birds away.



Sometimes a bird sees its reflection in a window and attacks it. This usually happens in the spring when defending a territory is important. Although annoying to the homeowner and distracts the bird from more productive activities, it seldom harms the bird.

### What to do when a bird strikes a window?

If it is injured take it to a rescue centre right away. If it is not injured protect the bird, cover with a cardboard box, while it recovers. Gently lift the box every 15 minutes until the bird flies away. If the bird does not fly away after 1 hour take it to a rescue centre.

**NOW** is a good time to find your nearest wildlife rehabilitation center. [Flap](#) can help.

**Window Strike Quick Fix:** on the outside of the window, using a bar of soap, draw a grid pattern with lines (or Dots) 5 cm apart. The space between is too small for even a hummingbird to fly through.

Sadly, bird strikes are most often fatal, even if a bird recovers and flies away. Many times they die later from their injuries. An estimated 42 million birds a year die from window strikes in Canada, second only to the numbers killed by cats.

2020 - GET OUT! Kids' Club  
naturehood@peptbo.ca  
www.peptbo.ca  
Reprint with accreditation.

