

How to help a window collision victim

Window collisions can cause internal injuries that are not visible, and some traumatic injuries are not shown until 24-48 hours after the impact. It can be hard to know if there is a cryptic injury like an internal bleed happening under the surface until it is too late. For these reasons if you observe or suspect a window strike and the bird is easily contained, it is best to have the bird brought in for rehabilitation as soon as possible.



1. Contain the bird in a secure, ventilated container. A shoebox or paper grocery bag works well for most small birds. For information about how to contain a songbird, please click [HERE](#).
2. Call Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center at 608-287-3235 to make an appointment to bring the bird in for rehabilitation.
3. Until your appointment, please keep the animal in a ventilated, secure container in a warm, quiet location and do not offer any food or water.
4. If you hear the bird become active and start moving around in the container, do not open the box. Some birds do recover the ability to fly, but they still might have an internal bleed or other injury. It is best to keep the container closed to keep the bird calm and prevent escape.
5. During transport to the Wildlife Center, be sure to keep the vehicle as quiet as possible. Keep the radio off and keep the windows closed. For more information about safely transporting the bird, please click [HERE](#).



Ideas for Preventing Future Collisions

It is estimated that up to one billion birds are killed each year from flying into windows. Birds hit glass because the reflection they see looks like the sky or vegetation, there is green habitat inside the windows that they think they can land in, or because they think they can fly through the windows when they can see out another window on the other side of the building.

Here are some things you can do to prevent future window collisions at your home or business. Start with altering the windows near bird feeders or roosting sites, or the windows with the highest incidence of collisions.

1. Mark your windows with bird tape, reflective decals, tempera paint, soap, window markers or window clings that will alert birds to the presence of glass. These markers should be close together to be most effective.
2. Mount netting or screens on the outside of your windows 2-3" from the glass.
3. Avoid putting green plants right inside of your windows.

4. Keep bird feeders within 3 feet of your window, or more than 30 feet away. Most importantly, work to make the windows near your feeders safe first as these are the ones most likely to be hit by birds.
5. Close your window blinds when you are not home, or don't need the natural light inside. If you have vertical blinds, keep them partially closed. Be especially aware of windows that line up across from each other in a room, and try to keep blinds on one or the other closed to prevent the illusion that the bird can fly straight through.

Additional Resources:

[Make Your Windows Bird-Safe](#) by the Humane Society of the United States

[Glass Collisions](#) by American Bird Conservancy

Products that may reduce the incidence of window collisions:

[BirdTape](#)

[The Bird Screen Company](#)

[Acopian Bird Savers](#) (Do-it-Yourself or Purchase)

[Window Alert](#)