

### A bird hit my window, what do I do?

This is a question many of us must ask ourselves. In fact, over 100 million songbirds die from collisions with buildings every year in North America. Some of these birds may be saved with a little timely intervention. When a bird does hit your window, it is best to go outside and check on how the bird is doing.



If the bird is deceased, it is recommended to remove the body using disposable gloves and to wash your hands afterwards. Most birds that collide with buildings are healthy, but there is always the chance that the bird was sick and hit the window as a consequence of being in ill-health.

If the bird is sitting on the ground near the window, look in the surrounding trees and bushes for adult birds. When juvenile songbirds are learning to fly they may collide with windows, but typically an adult bird is nearby. In these circumstances, if the juvenile is bright enough to perch you can gently pick up the juvenile and place it in a tree or bush out of reach of pets. The adults will continue to look after the juvenile.

Any time you pick up or handle a wild bird, it is recommended that you wash your hands with soap immediately afterwards.

If it's an adult bird that seems dazed or is otherwise unable to fly, place it in a warm (room temperature or slightly warmer) dark space such as a paper bag or a cardboard box. Wait an hour, then check on the bird again. Sometimes the bird will be ready to fly away at this point. If the bird is still not able to fly away the bird should be looked at by an experienced wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian.

**In Manitoba there are two licensed rehabilitation facilities accepting orphaned or injured animals:** Wildlife Haven <http://wildlifehaven.ca/>, and Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre <http://pwildlife.ca/>.

Contact your Manitoba veterinarian or either of these facilities to best determine how to get your bird the next level of care it needs.

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