

Raptor Silhouette Window Decal Pattern

Make and Install
Raptor Silhouette
Window Decals to
Save Migrating Birds!



Birds and Windows Don't Mix!

How to Make and Use Raptor Silhouettes to Reduce Bird Collisions With Windows

- Print this sheet.
- Using the shape on this sheet as a pattern, cut out raptor shapes from black plastic (garbage bags work fine)
- Dampen the raptor shape and stick it to the window, in various positions if using more than one
- Install raptor silhouettes on your windows at work and at home

For more information, contact the *DTE Energy Green Team* at environment@dteenergy.com

Birds and Windows Don't Mix!

In North America every year, between one hundred million and one billion birds die from collisions with buildings and other human-built structures. Birds see blue skies and trees reflected in a window, or they see the plant inside the room, but they don't see the window, and that's what makes windows invisible killers to birds. Particularly dangerous are areas where front and back windows are aligned so the bird sees through the space as if there is clear sailing ahead.

Since the St. Clair River-Detroit River system is part of the great North American Flyway, many migrating birds pass through downtown Detroit and by our Detroit headquarters. There are more birds in the area during the fall and spring migration periods, so the number of collisions always increases during migration.

At DTE Energy we are trying to reduce the number of bird collisions with the windows of our downtown headquarters complex and our other facilities where bird collisions occur. We have reduced the number of window washings done annually because dirty windows are more visible to birds. We have installed a few raptor silhouettes in key areas in the walkway where windows are back-to-back. Some people think raptor (hawk) silhouettes trick other birds into thinking a predator is in front of them, making them fly away, but others think the silhouettes work simply by breaking up the transparent, reflective surface of the window.

Either way, we need your help to add more silhouettes to building windows – the more silhouettes the greater the chance that a bird can avoid a collision.

At home there are other techniques you can use to reduce bird collisions in addition to the raptor silhouettes:

- 1. Hang ribbons or other material in strips no more than two inches apart on the outside of windows for the full width of the glass.*
- 2. Make sure that bird feeders and other attractants (birdbaths, nutritious vegetation) are either less than two feet or more than ten feet away from any window. If the attractant is very close to the house, most of the time the bird cannot build up enough momentum to injure itself should it hit the window. Alternatively, if the feeder is ten feet away or more, the bird is less likely to come close enough to the house for a collision to take place.*
- 3. Draw drapes and close blinds when possible. This will help if you have plants inside the house close to the window or when a window at the front and back of your home face each other giving the impression of a clear passage. This will not control the exterior reflective characteristics of window.*
- 4. Since hawk silhouettes work much better when they move, make your silhouettes from sheet aluminum or wood and hang them by chain or rope from an overhang.*
- 5. Attach spider web decals (sold under the name Warning Web) to the exterior surface of your windows. Most birds naturally avoid webs and the web decals break up the reflective and transparent surface of the glass.*

For more information, visit the website of FLAP, a Canadian organization working to preserve the lives of migratory birds in urban areas at <http://www.flap.org/home2.htm> or contact the *DTE Energy Green Team* at environment@dteenergy.com