

BIRD FRIENDLY MATERIALS

Zoning and Construction Codes Requirements

HIGHLIGHTS

To reduce the number of bird deaths due to collision with building glass, the New York City Council passed legislation requiring bird friendly materials on the exterior of new buildings and alterations replacing all exterior glazing, effective January 10, 2021.

In addition to the Bulletin, a Guidance Document was created to give additional information on how to comply with these new requirements.



PHOTO SOURCE: Wild About Nature Blog



PHOTO SOURCE: American Bird Conservancy

QUICK GUIDE

Birds see the world differently. Glass reflecting the sky and trees, glass railings on balconies and glass walls in close succession are all conditions dangerous to birds. To reduce the number of bird collisions, below are some locations where designers must provide bird friendly materials to varying degrees. See the [Bulletin](#) and [Guidance Document](#) for details on requirements for each location:

- Exterior walls
- Exterior glass wall corners
- Exterior parallel glass walls
- Exterior glass railings & awnings
- Exterior walls facing a green roof.

Talk to your architect or engineer about bird friendly material requirements to make sure your project is compliant. **Read the full [Bulletin](#) and [Guidance Document](#) for more details on the requirements.**

BACKGROUND

What are bird friendly materials?

Compliant bird friendly materials must have a threat factor of 25 or less in accordance with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) Bird Collision Deterrence Material Threat Factor Reference Standard, or with the ABC Bird-friendly Materials Evaluation Program at Carnegie Museum's Avian Research Center test protocol, or relevant ASTM standard.

Bird friendly materials listed in the ABC database often have the following characteristics:

- Patterns on glass
- Louvers, screens and wires installed in front of glass
- Glass with a UV pattern transparent to the human eye but is visible to birds

UV patterned glass must be used when NYC Zoning Resolution requires ground floor transparency. See Guidance Document for details.

Send questions to constructioncodes@buildings.nyc.gov.