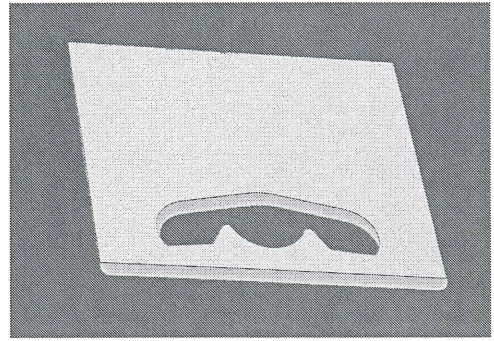
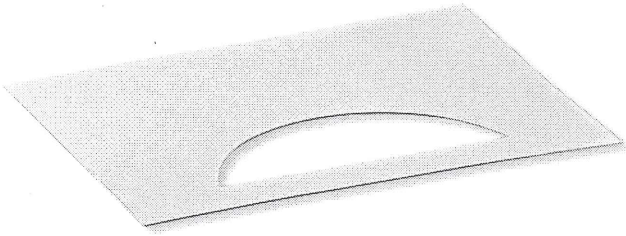


Starling-resistant Entrance Plates



Thank you for purchasing this product from the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Your purchase helps support the education, conservation, and research projects of the PMCA. We hope this product will give you many seasons of use. We're glad to have you as a partner in martin conservation.

For the past 30 years, most commercial martin houses have been designed with traditional round entrance holes, ranging in size from 1-3/4" to 2-1/2". Martins have used these entrances for hundreds of years. However, this size and shape of entrance also permits the Purple Martins' greatest nesting competitor, the European Starling, to gain entry. Starlings are aggressive nonnative birds that will take over martin housing, chase off investigating birds, kill adult martins, and destroy eggs and young. Starling-resistant excluder entrances (SREHs) have a high success rate when it comes to deterring these unwanted pests. These designs have been tested against the starling's skeletal structure, and will discourage the starling, with its larger, protruding breastbone, from entering your martin housing. Use these adapter plates to retrofit houses that have traditional round holes. Landlords with established colony sites can switch entrances between seasons without fear of losing their birds.

Preparing the housing: Before attaching these entrance plates to the houses, the standard entrance hole will need to be enlarged to accommodate the new starling resistant entrance hole size. Important: if attaching plates to compartment-style houses, make sure that enough room is made to accommodate the height of any nest trays or traps placed inside the compartment. The SREH is most effective when placed no farther than 1/2" above the height of porch and inside floor of the house; flush with the floor is best. Place the plate on top of the round entrance and trace the new shape onto the door of the house. Once the plate is taken off, the portion of the house front that needs to be removed will become visible. To enlarge the original entrance hole, use a saber saw for wooden houses or tin snips for aluminum houses. When working with aluminum houses, remember to file down any sharp edges with a metal file or sandpaper before attaching adapter plates.

Attaching the Starling Resistant Entrance Plates to housing: There are several options available when attaching these replacement plates to houses. They were designed to be attached to the outside of the existing hole, and depending on your situation, any of the following work well to secure the plates: pop rivets, sheet metal screws, metal/wood epoxy, or industrial grade double-sided tape. After securing the adapter plate, apply a bead of 100% silicone caulking at the seam where the edge of the plate meets the house. This will further secure the plate, and prevent water from leaking into the interior of the compartment. This seal will also prevent martins from catching a toenail in any cracks while entering or exiting.

When introducing starling-resistant entrances, as with any other changes made to housing, it is important to allow martins time to adjust. It is natural for martins to act suspicious when first investigating new entrances. They will have to learn how to negotiate these entrances, and there is a learning curve. Be prepared for the birds at your site to take anywhere from a few minutes to two weeks to become comfortable with the starling-resistant entrances. By the time martins are ready to begin nesting, they will have learned to negotiate the entrances with ease.

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