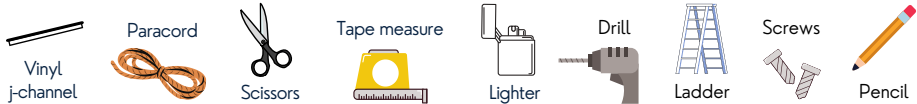# HOW TO MAKE ZEN CURTAINS

## What Are Zen Curtains?

Zen curtains are exterior window treatments that break up the reflections of windows and create a visual barrier for birds to see. They are generally made of vinyl j-channel and paracord, and secured to the outsides of  windows. Zen curtains can dangle freely, or be tied down to a second piece of vinyl j-channel at the bottom so they are taut. These window treatments are an easy and inexpensive way to make windows bird safe.

## What You Will Need

Vinyl j-channel · Paracord · Scissors · Tape measure · Lighter · Drill · Ladder · Screws · Pencil

## How Much You Will Need

**Vinyl j-channel** is usually sold in 10 foot pieces. Measure the width of the window to determine how many pieces of j-channel you'll need. Cut j-channel to size with a saw. **Paracord** is sold in a variety of lengths. Follow these steps to calculate how much paracord you'll need.

1. Width of window frame in inches divided by 2 = approximate number of strands of paracord needed.
2. Height of window frame in inches, plus 1 inch, multiplied by the number of strands of paracord = total length of paracord needed in inches. Convert to feet by diving by 12.
3. Add 1/2 inch per foot to account for the shrinkage of the paracord when it initially gets wet, but only if purchasing paracord that is not pre-shrunk by the manufacturer.
4. Purchase a little extra paracord to account for any possible measuring errors made.

# HOW TO MAKE
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## How To Prepare Paracord

If you did not buy pre-shrunk paracord, you can pre-shrink it yourself at home. To pre-shrink paracord, place it in a bowl of warm water for 5 minutes, or boiling water for 15 seconds. Remove the paracord with a pair of tongs, and allow to fully dry before using. You do not need to use pre-shrunk paracord as long as you account for the shrinkage that will occur when the paracord gets wet for the first time. To do this, add a 1/2 inch per foot of paracord when measuring and cutting paracord strands.
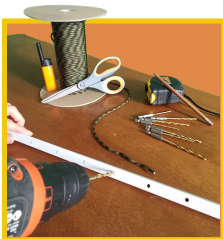
## How To Assemble And Hang

**STEP 1:** Add holes to vinyl j-channel to attach paracord strands by measuring every 2 inches along the bottom of the j-channel, and marking with a pencil. Drill a hole in the center of the bottom of the j-channel on each mark. Use a drill bit that will create large enough holes for the paracord to fit through.

**STEP 2:** Measure each strand of paracord with a ruler to the length of the window frame plus an extra inch for the knot. Cut the paracord with scissors, but don't let go of each end. Carefully use a lighter to melt the ends of the paracord to keep them from fraying. Make enough strands of paracord to fill each hole drilled in the j-channel.

**STEP 3:** String a strand of paracord through the first hole in the j-channel. Tie a knot in the paracord above the j-channel, so it won't fall back out. Repeat until all strands of paracord are strung on j-channel.
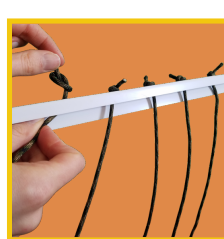
**STEP 4:** Using screws and a drill, secure the zen curtain to the top of the window frame on the outside of the window. You may need a ladder for this step. In some cases, you may be able to avoid using screws by sliding the j-channel into space in your vinyl siding.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4