

6-STEP INSTALLATION MAP: The Ultimate Backyard Station

1. The "Safety Circle" Location

- **Distance:** Measure **10–12 feet** from the nearest dense bush or evergreen tree.
- *Why:* Close enough for a quick escape from hawks, far enough to prevent squirrels from jumping from a branch.

2. Window Strike Prevention (The 3/30 Rule)

- **Placement:** Position your pole either **within 3 feet** of the glass (birds can't pick up enough speed to hurt themselves) or **further than 30 feet** away.
- *Action:* Apply UV-reflective decals to the exterior of the glass.

3. Pole Anchor Setup

- **Depth:** Drive your heavy-duty steel pole **18–24 inches** into the ground.
- *Tip:* Use a level to ensure it's perfectly vertical; leaning poles make squirrel baffles fail.

4. The Anti-Squirrel Baffle (The 5-Foot Rule)

- **Height:** Clamp your metal baffle so its top edge is exactly **5 feet (1.5 meters)** above the ground.
- *Logic:* Squirrels can jump 4 feet vertically; the 5-foot mark is the "dead zone" they can't clear.

5. Feeder Mounting

- **Hooks:** Use locking "S" hooks or carabiners to hang your hardware.
- **Alignment:** Ensure the feeder hangs at least **10 feet** away from any horizontal structures (fences, decks, or trees).

6. The First Filling & Log

- **Mix:** Fill with Black Oil Sunflower seed.
- **Observation:** Note the time of the first visitor (usually takes 2–14 days for birds to trust a new station).