

Summary of Turtle Laws

This is a summary of turtle laws as of July 2022. More information can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>.

If you are under the age of 16 you can possess 25 turtles.

If you are between 16-18 years of age, you can possess 25 turtles if you have an angling license.

Anyone over the age of 18 can possess 3 turtles and must have an angling license.

Western painted turtles must measure between 4 and 5 1/2 inches in shell length and may be taken at any time of the year.

Turtles must be harvested legally. [Please fill out this form](#) if you choose to help us collect turtles and keep this tradition of turtle racing in Longville going.

Link to form: <https://forms.gle/htmsFcwQw75fQeSj7>

Turtle Laws as of July 2022

97C.605 TURTLES.

Subdivision 1.

Resident angling license required. In addition to any other license required in this section, a person may not take, possess, or transport turtles without a resident angling license, except as provided in subdivision 2c.

Subd. 2c. License exemptions.

(4) to take, possess, and rent or sell up to 25 turtles greater than four inches in length for the purpose of providing the turtles to participants at a nonprofit turtle race, if the person is a resident under age 18. The person is responsible for the well-being of the turtles.

Subd. 3. Taking; methods prohibited.

(a) A person may not take turtles by using:

- (1) explosives, drugs, poisons, lime, and other harmful substances;
- (2) traps, except as provided in paragraph (b) and rules adopted under this section;
- (3) nets other than anglers; fish landing nets;
- (4) commercial equipment, except as provided in rules adopted under this section;
- (5) firearms and ammunition;

- (6) bow and arrow or crossbow; or
- (7) spears, harpoons, or any other implements that impale turtles.

97C.611 TURTLE SPECIES; LIMITS.

Subd. 2. Western painted turtles.

(a) A person may not possess more than three Western painted turtles of the species *Chrysemys picta* without a turtle seller's license. Western painted turtles must be between 4 and 5-1/2 inches in shell length.

6256.0500 TAKING TURTLES.

Subp. 9. Size limits.

A turtle seller, turtle seller's apprentice, or recreational turtle licensee or a person harvesting turtles under an angling license is restricted to taking and possessing sizes of turtles as specified in items C. The turtle size is determined by measuring the top shell length (carapace, not including the curvature) from above the neck to above the tail.

C. Western painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) must be 5-1/2 inches or smaller in shell length, except persons acting under Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.605, subdivision 2c, clause (4), may take and possess western painted turtles of any length greater than four inches.