

Turkey Hunting Checklist

Clothing

Head-to-toe camouflage that conceals you from turkeys and keeps you dry and comfortable is a necessity. Layer your clothing to fit the weather, and add or remove layers as needed.

Base layer – tops and bottoms	These will help on cold mornings, but also help you wick sweat as the day heats up.
Mid-layer tops	Long-sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts (multiple, thinner layers).
Jacket and pants/bibs	Wind/waterproof. Some waterproof clothing can be very noisy, so walk around the store to ensure it isn't loud.
Vest (optional)	Many turkey hunters use a camo vest with a variety of pockets for carrying calls and other accessories.
Socks	Wool is a common choice. It helps to have several pairs, maybe even an extra pair with you.
Waterproof boots	You may want a lighter-weight boot for spring turkey hunting, as well as for warmer fall turkey hunting condition. Rubber boots work well because they don't carry scent. Make sure to break them in before the season begins.
Hat	Besides concealment, a baseball cap is useful for helping keep sun out of your eyes.
Head net, facemask or face paint	To conceal your face.
Gloves	Use even when warm to avoid being detected.

Equipment

Firearm	Either a shotgun or a muzzleloading shotgun. Full choke is best for turkey hunting.
Turkey load ammunition for firearm	Specific loads identified for turkey are widely available at sporting goods stores.
Firearm case	Soft-sided or hard-sided.
Gun-cleaning kit	Get a kit specific to your firearm.
Bow	Crossbow, compound bow, recurve bow, long bow.
Trigger release	Compound bow only.
Cocking aid	Crossbow only.
Arrows	Bolts for crossbow.
Broadheads	Bow only.

Other hunting gear and items

Hunting license and tags	Available online at E-License or at any license agent . Apprentice licenses are available for those who don't yet have a hunter safety certificate. See pages 8-10 of the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest for more information about license types and buying a license.
Turkey call	To learn more about turkey hunting gear like calls and decoys, visit www.nwtf.org/hunt/category/gear-up .
Turkey decoy	
Knife	A sturdy fixed or folding blade of 3 inches is sufficient.
Flashlight	Along with carrying these items, for safety's sake, always make sure someone knows about your hunting plans – where you'll be hunting and when you're expected to return.
Map and compass	
Smartphone (fully charged)	
Watch	Phone can be used in place of watch.