

# Turtle Sale Requirements

The sale of small turtles is illegal in the US because small turtles have a higher risk of having salmonella. Only purchase turtles with shells longer than four inches. The only exemptions for the sale of small turtles are for legitimate scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes.

## Turtles Carry Salmonella

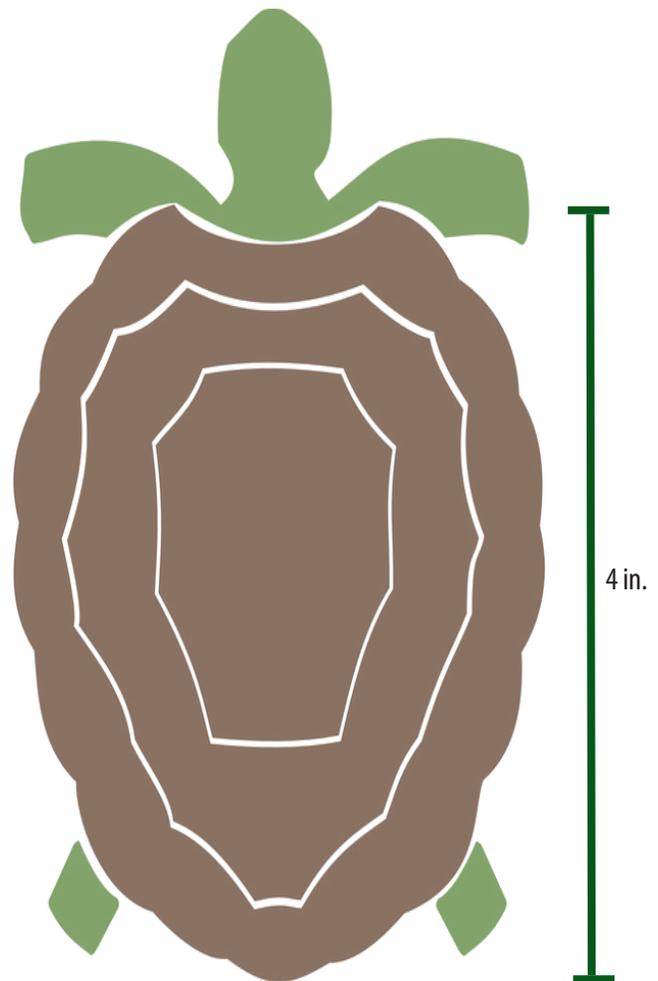
Infected turtles can look healthy but still carry salmonella and spread the disease to humans. There is no effective way to make turtles salmonella-free, even if they are treated with antibiotics. Salmonella infections in humans can be especially severe in infants and the elderly, and can result in death in immuneocomprised populations.

**If you are purchasing a small turtle for legitimate scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes, take the following precautions:**

- Do not allow the turtle or the turtle's water near your mouth.
- Wash hands thoroughly after touching the turtle, cage or water.
- Change the turtle's water frequently.
- Do not change the water in the same location where food is prepared for human consumption.
- Do not feed the turtle raw meat or anything that contains raw eggs.

If you meet the exemption requirements and are purchasing a small turtle, visit [www.cdc.gov/healthypets](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets) for more information on how to be safe around turtles and other reptiles.

*Michigan law requires that sellers of small turtles for legitimate scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes provide the purchaser(s) with a copy of this document.*



**Questions? Contact us at 800-292-3939**