

AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS

Salamanders

Licensed bait dealers may possess 250 salamanders in total aggregate, but cannot possess species with closed seasons.

Possession Limit: 10 in aggregate
Season: Open

Common Name	Scientific Name
Jefferson salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>
Spotted salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>
Marbled salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>
Red-spotted newt (includes red eft)	<i>Notophthalmus v. viridescens</i>
Northern dusky salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>
Seal salamander	<i>Desmognathus monticola</i>
Allegheny dusky salamander	<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>
Black-bellied salamander	<i>Desmognathus quadramaculatus</i>
Black Mountain salamander	<i>Desmognathus walteri</i>
Northern spring salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus p. porphyriticus</i>
Kentucky spring salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus p. duryi</i>
Four-toed salamander	<i>Hemidactylum scutatum</i>
Northern two-lined salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>
Southern two-lined salamander	<i>Eurycea cirrigera</i>
Eastern long-tailed salamander	<i>Eurycea l. longicauda</i>
Eastern red-backed salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>
White-spotted slimy salamander	<i>Plethodon cylindraceus</i>
Northern ravine salamander	<i>Plethodon electromorphus</i>
Northern slimy salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>
Valley and ridge salamander	<i>Plethodon hoffmani</i>
Cumberland Plateau salamander	<i>Plethodon kentucki</i>
Southern ravine salamander	<i>Plethodon richmondi</i>
Wehrle's salamander	<i>Plethodon wehrlei</i>
Northern red salamander	<i>Pseudotriton ruber ruber</i>
Midland mud salamander	<i>Pseudotriton diastictus</i>

Toads and Frogs

Possession Limit: 4 in aggregate, with exceptions
Season: Open, with exceptions

Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern American toad	<i>Anaxyrus a. americanus</i>
Fowler's toad	<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>
Cope's gray treefrog	<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>
Gray treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>
Mountain chorus frog	<i>Pseudacris brachyphona</i>
Spring peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>
Upland chorus frog	<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>
*American bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>
*Green frog	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>
Pickerel frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Wood frog	<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>

* The daily creel limit for American bullfrog and green frog is 10, with a possession limit of 20. See Fishing Regulations for seasons.

No more than 25 amphibian eggs, tadpoles or larvae (in aggregate) may be possessed.

Possession Limit: 0 **Season:** Closed

Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>
Eastern cricket frog	<i>Acris crepitans</i>
Northern leopard frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>

The animal, its eggs, offspring, or parts thereof may not be possessed.



To learn more about amphibians and reptiles of West Virginia, including how to identify the species, please see eBooks under Publications at www.wvdnr.gov/wf.



DEFINITIONS

Resident: a person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and full-time students of a college or university of this state. Absentee ownership of land in West Virginia does not constitute legal residence.

Reptile: turtles, lizards and snakes, or any part thereof, and eggs or offspring.

Amphibian: salamanders, frogs and toads, or any part thereof, and eggs or offspring.

Possession Limit: reptiles and amphibians taken alive or dead from the wild, in which are in any way under the control of an individual (including in a vehicle, home, or other storage place).



West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

324 Fourth Avenue
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

For questions regarding species, call (304) 637-0245.

For questions regarding license requirements, call (304) 558-2758.

dnr.wildlife@wv.gov



On the cover: Green frog

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services and programs to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability or other protected group status.

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WEST VIRGINIA

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS



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REPTILE REGULATIONS

Reptiles and amphibians are a valuable and abundant wildlife resource. They provide us with opportunities to study, appreciate and use our natural heritage. The WVDNR established these regulations (W.Va. C.S.R. § 58-73-1, et seq.) to enable these activities without harming reptile and amphibian populations.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

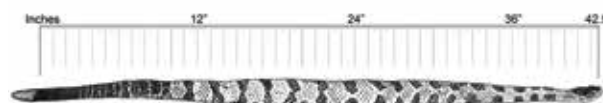
- Only West Virginia residents are permitted to take and/or possess reptile and amphibian species that do not have closed seasons. Non-residents may possess salamanders with open seasons for use as bait with a valid fishing license or purchase receipt.
- A valid West Virginia fishing license is required to take aquatic life; species with closed seasons may not be taken as aquatic life.
- Nonresidents with a valid Class F nonresident fishing license may take only American bullfrogs and green frogs.

Possession and Release of Amphibians and Reptiles

It is illegal to:

- release any reptile or amphibian back into the wild that was held in captivity for more than 30 days. Reptiles or amphibians that have been held in the same enclosure with other species of reptiles or amphibians may not be released at any time. Reptiles or amphibians that are released must be released at the location of the capture.
- collect reptiles and amphibians from the wild for commercial purposes.
- take or possess any reptile or amphibian from a Wildlife Management Area or State Fish Hatchery, except when:
 - » Persons who have received written permission from the Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section, provided they carry and exhibit said permission upon request. Persons lawfully taking bullfrogs, green frogs, snapping turtles and eastern spiny softshell turtles (Wildlife Management Areas only).

Lizards	
Possession Limit: 4 in aggregate	
Season: January 1 – May 15 and July 15 – December 31	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>
Eastern six-lined racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis s. sexlineata</i>
Northern coal skink	<i>Plestiodon a. anthracinus</i>
Common five-lined skink	<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>
Broad-headed skink	<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>
Little brown skink	<i>Scincella lateralis</i>
The possession of lizard eggs is not permitted.	



Timber rattlesnakes must measure 42 inches or greater when measured from the tip of the snout to the base of the rattle. (Illustration by Tim Brosius)

HOW TO TELL A LIZARD FROM A SALAMANDER
Salamanders have an elongated body, a long tail, and a body shape that resembles lizards, and for this reason they are occasionally referred to as “spring lizards.” Salamanders, frogs and toads are amphibians while lizards, turtles and snakes are reptiles. As amphibians, salamanders lack the reptilian characteristics of lizards such as body scales and claws on their toes. Because of their delicate, moist, scaleless bodies, salamanders are restricted to aquatic or semi-aquatic habitats such as rivers, creeks and springs, and to moist forested areas.

Snakes	
Possession Limit: 4 in aggregate, with exceptions	
Season: Open	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern wormsnake	<i>Carphophis a. amoenus</i>
Northern black racer	<i>Coluber c. constrictor</i>
Northern ring-necked snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsii</i>
Red cornsnake	<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>
Eastern ratsnake	<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>
Gray ratsnake	<i>Pantherophis spiloides</i>
Eastern hog-nosed snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinus</i>
Eastern kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>
Eastern black kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis g. nigra</i>
Eastern milksnake	<i>Lampropeltis t. triangulum</i>
Common watersnake	<i>Nerodia s. sipedon</i>
Northern rough greensnake	<i>Opheodrys a. aestivus</i>
Smooth greensnake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>
Northern pinesnake	<i>Pituophis m. melanoleucus</i>
Queen snake	<i>Regina septemvittata</i>
Dekay’s brownsnake	<i>Storeria dekayi</i>
Red-bellied snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>
Common ribbonsnake	<i>Thamnophis s. saurita</i>
Eastern gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</i>
Eastern smooth earthsnake	<i>Virginia v. valeriae</i>
Mountain earthsnake	<i>Virginia v. pulchra</i>
*Eastern copperhead	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>
*Timber rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>
<p>*Possession limit of 1; timber rattlesnakes must be 42 inches or greater in length.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shed snake skins will not be counted as part of the total possession limit. • Homeowners may kill or collect for relocation any snake found near their home or outbuildings. 	

Turtles	
Possession Limit: 4 in aggregate, with exceptions	
Season: January 1 – May 15 and July 15 – December 31	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern musk turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>
Eastern painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys p. picta</i>
Midland painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys p. marginata</i>
Eastern river cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna</i>
Northern red-bellied cooter	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>
Eastern box turtle	<i>Terrapene c. carolina</i>
Red-eared slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>
*Snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
*Spiny softshell	<i>Apalone s. spinifera</i>
<p>* The daily creel limit for snapping turtles and spiny softshells is 10, with a possession limit of 20. See <i>Fishing Regulations for seasons.</i></p> <p>The possession of turtle eggs is not permitted.</p>	

Possession Limit: 0 (includes parts thereof, eggs and offspring) Season: Closed	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Wood turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>
Spotted turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>
Northern map turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>
Ouachita map turtle	<i>Graptemys ouachitensis</i>
Midland smooth softshell	<i>Apalone m. mutica</i>
The animal, its eggs or parts thereof may not be possessed.	