

# Deer Hunting Checklist

## Clothing

*Add or remove insulation layers in different weather/hunting conditions to stay comfortable.*

<b>Base layer – tops and bottoms</b>	Moisture-wicking (not cotton). Critical for staying warm, but it won't be seen, so don't worry about camouflage.
<b>Mid-layer – tops and pants</b>	Long-sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts (multiple, thinner layers); jeans or nylon/wool pants; a fleece jacket or vest if weather necessitates more layers.
<b>Outer layer – coat/jacket and pants/bibs</b>	Wind/waterproof. Some waterproof clothing can be very noisy, especially in the cold. Walk around the store to ensure it isn't loud.
<b>Heavy socks</b>	Wool is a common choice. It helps to have several pairs, maybe even an extra pair with you. The quantity/quality of insulation in your socks will vary depending on the grams of insulation in your boots.
<b>Waterproof, insulated boots</b>	Buy one size larger than your shoe size, to leave room for socks and some open space, helping to keep your feet warm. You may want two sets of boots – one with less insulation (400 grams) for early fall and one with more insulation (800-1,600 grams) for winter.
<b>Winter hat</b>	Hunter orange (firearm season only) if you don't have a hunter orange vest or jacket.
<b>Hunter orange vest</b>	Firearm season only, required by Michigan regulations (see page 18 of the <a href="#">Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest</a> for more details). You may also wear a cap, hat, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange.
<b>Gloves</b>	Make sure you can pull the trigger while wearing them.

## Equipment

*[Deer seasons](#) vary by type of hunting equipment you will be using. Check [Michigan hunting regulations](#) to make sure your equipment complies.*

<b>Firearm</b>	Rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader.
<b>Ammunition for firearm</b>	Rifle – 100 to 150 grain works well for deer. Shotgun – deer slugs only; do not use buckshot.
<b>Firearm case</b>	Soft-sided or hard-sided.
<b>Gun-cleaning kit</b>	Get a kit specific to your firearm.
<b>Scope/optics (optional)</b>	A variable-power scope is usually for rifles only.
<b>Bow</b>	Crossbow, compound bow, recurve bow, long bow.
<b>Trigger release</b>	Compound bow only.
<b>Cocking aid</b>	Crossbow only.
<b>Arrows</b>	Bolts for crossbow.
<b>Broadheads</b>	Bow only.

## Other hunting gear and items

<b>Hunting license and tags</b>	Available <a href="#">online at E-License</a> or at any <a href="#">license agent</a> . Apprentice licenses are available for those who don't yet have a hunter safety certificate. See pages 8-10 of the <a href="#">Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest</a> for more information about license types and buying a license.
<b>Backpack</b>	Waterproof but quiet.
<b>Field-dressing knife</b>	A sturdy fixed or folding blade of 3 inches is sufficient.
<b>Surgical gloves</b>	For field-dressing deer.
<b>Flashlight</b>	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.
<b>Map and compass</b>	
<b>Smartphone (fully charged)</b>	
<b>Tree stand (optional)</b>	<a href="#">Types of elevated hunting stands</a> . For more information about regulations for using raised platforms and tree stands, see the <a href="#">Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest</a> .
<b>Tree stand safety harness and safety rope</b>	Essential if buying a tree stand. Invest in a high-quality harness, and always attach safety rope to the tree while climbing into a tree stand.
<b>Ground blind (optional)</b>	For more information about types of ground blinds and regulations for using them on public land, see the <a href="#">Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest</a> .