

New Definition of Archery Equipment For 2024



Archery Hunting License

The Archery Hunting License now allows hunters to hunt with a crossbow or bow and arrow. Hunters no longer need to acquire a “Crossbow Permit” to hunt with a crossbow because the Archery Hunting License permits them to hunt with a crossbow or bow and arrow.

Archery Information

Archery Equipment: Archery equipment means a bow or crossbow.

Seasons: The regular archery license allows archery equipment to be used to hunt all legal game throughout the year, except for deer during the muzzleloader season.

Note: Use of crossbows in expanded archery areas during the expanded archery season (for hunters other than those age 65 or older or with a special disability permit) is pending the outcome of the rulemaking process which will be complete in April 2024.

To Obtain an Archery License: Applicants for the regular archery license must show proof of one of the following options:

- Having successfully completed an archery hunter education course;
- Having held a Maine adult archery license in any year after 1979; OR
- Previously holding a crossbow permit in Maine prior to 2024.

When proof or evidence cannot be provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit. Native Americans are exempt from safety course requirements for archery and trapping. Junior hunters who hold a valid Junior Hunting License are allowed to hunt with archery equipment when accompanied by a junior hunter supervisor.

If a person completed the crossbow safety course but has not held a crossbow hunting permit in Maine prior to 2024, they must complete the Archery Hunter Safety and Education Course. Upon successful completion, that person may purchase an archery hunting license and hunt with a bow and arrow or crossbow. Hunter safety and education courses can be found at mefishwildlife.com/safetycourses

**For more information and to view all of Maine’s hunting laws,
please visit mefishwildlife.com/laws**