

Maine Exclusion Device Check List

Updated September 2025



The current exclusion devices were the result of collaboration between the Department and Maine Trappers. The exclusion device requirements are designed to provide marten and fisher trapping opportunities but also to prevent Canada lynx and other non-target species from getting caught. Exclusion devices are required statewide, regardless of zone. Please remember, the attachment points of the exclusion device must be secured to prevent the device from separating when set. The back of the device must also be secured to withstand heavy pulling and the trap must be anchored to an object independent of the exclusion device. There are many variations of exclusion devices that are being built, sold, and used. Review the regulations to ensure the exclusion device is legal in Maine.

MATERIAL

You can build an exclusion device from one or a combination of the materials listed below:

- Wood
- Plastic
- Wire or Wire Mesh
 - 16 gauge or less (\geq wire diameter 0.05")
 - Mesh cannot exceed 1.5" x 1.5" or 1" x 2" openings

ENTRANCE HOLE AND INTERIOR BAFFLE (INTERIOR ENTRANCE)

Killer-type trap with jaw spread less than or equal to 5" (120 or 155 trap)

- 4" x 4" or less entrance hole placed at the end or side of the device. The entrance hole can be a square, diamond, circle, or any shape as long as it does not exceed 4" x 4". No baffle is required.

Killer-type trap with jaw spread greater than 5" and less than 8" (160 or 220 trap)

OPTION 1:

- 5" x 6" entrance hole placed at the end of device. Baffle must be no more than 6" back from the entrance. Baffle must not leave an inside opening greater than 5" x 6" and must not overlap with the exterior entrance.

OPTION 2:

- 6" x 7" entrance hole placed on the side of the device. Baffle must be placed at the inside edge of the entrance hole with the baffle opening on the opposite side of the entrance hole with the interior opening not exceeding 6" x 6".

SLOT FOR TRAP SPRINGS

- No more than 7.5" wide by 1.5" height.

TRAP PLACEMENT AND ANCHOR

- Trap must be set at least 18" back from the closest edge of the entrance hole.
- Trap jaws must be placed completely within the exclusion device, but the trap springs can extend outside the exclusion device.
- Trap must be securely anchored independent of the exclusion device (e.g., tree, log, staked).

DEVICE PANELS

- When there is a joint, there must be a secure attachment point on two opposite sides of the device to ensure the device does not separate when set.

BACK PANEL OF DEVICE

- Material must be secured to the exclusion device in such a manner to withstand heavy pulling.
- If using wire mesh on the back of a wooden or plastic device, the mesh must meet gauge (16 g. or less) and mesh size specifications (not to exceed 1.5" x 1.5" or 1" x 2") and wrap around at least two opposite sides of the device and be securely fastened.

BAIT

- Bait must not be visible from above and must be covered in such a way to withstand wind and other normal environmental conditions.

DEVICE PLACEMENT

- Statewide, killer-type traps set on land must be in an exclusion device with the exception of killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread of 5" or less set as a blind set or under an overhanging stream bank.
- When enclosed in an exclusion device, killer-type traps can be set directly on the ground or elevated on a pole or tree.

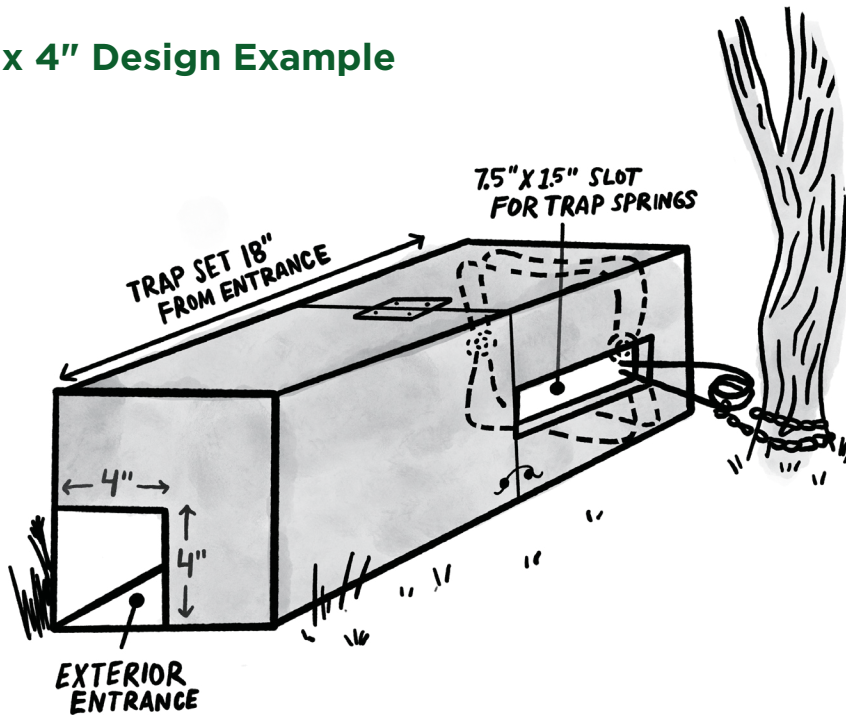
Visit mefishwildlife.com/trapping to review Maine's Trapping Laws.

Maine Exclusion Device Examples

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4" x 4" Design Example



For traps with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping), the device must have an opening of 4 x 4 inches or less. The entrance hole may be placed on the end or on the side of the device, and the trap must be set a minimum of 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole.

5" x 6" and 6" x 7" Design Example

Figure 1.
5" x 6"

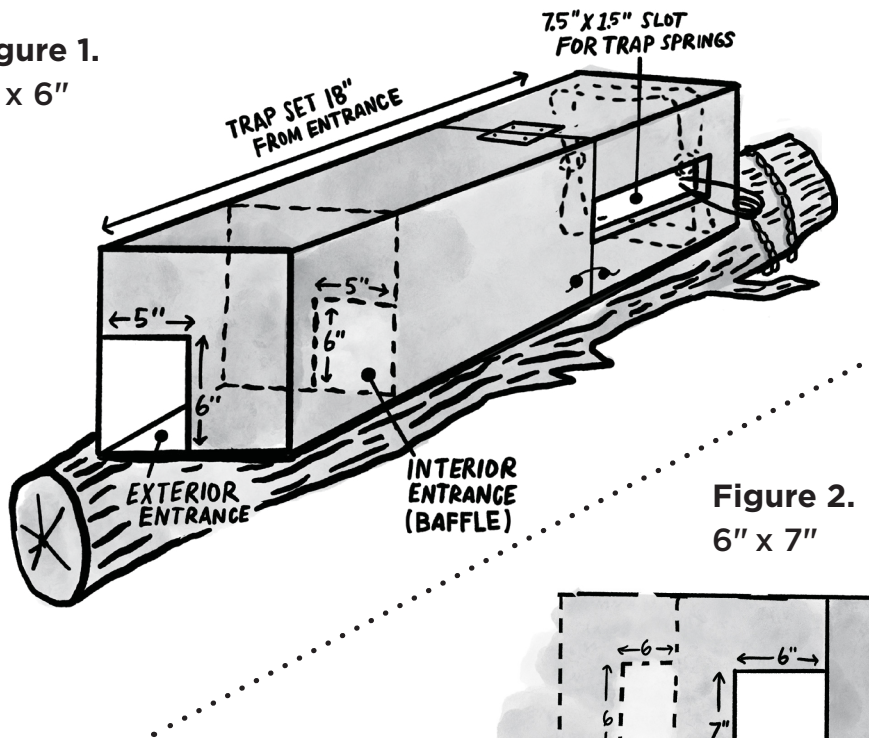
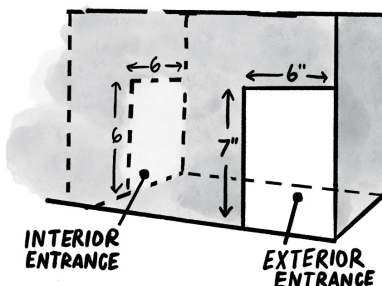


Figure 2.
6" x 7"



For traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 inches but less than 8 inches, (primarily used for fisher trapping) two designs may be constructed. For both devices the trap must be placed no closer than 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole. The first design has an entrance hole on the end of the device that must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not leave an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening must not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device (Figure 1). For the second design the entrance hole must not exceed 6 x 7 inches and must be placed on the side of the device. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the baffle opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the interior opening must not exceed 6 x 6 inches (Figure 2).