

Ice Shelters - what you need to know

The following are some common questions conservation officers receive from ice anglers:

New Laws/Requirements – What is a portable shelter?

- Portable shelter is now defined as a structure that is placed on the ice to provide shelter and is readily collapsible, folds, or disassembles for transport.
- Portable shelters, like the canvas/nylon collapsible and sled-style shelters, do not need to be licensed when they are occupied/attended.
- Shelters that do not meet the definition of a portable shelter, such as camper-type shelters, need to be licensed.

Licensing – What shelters need to be licensed?

- Shelters that are placed on the ice to provide shelter that are NOT defined as portable shelters need to be licensed.
- If a person is not within 200 feet of a portable shelter, the portable shelter needs to be licensed.
- In addition, any portable shelter that is left unattended any time between midnight and an hour before sunrise needs to be licensed.
- Camper-type shelters are not considered portable shelters and will need to be licensed.

Display of License and Owner Info – What needs to be displayed?

- If a shelter needs to be licensed, the license needs to be displayed so it is readily visible from the exterior of the shelter.
- In addition, if a shelter needs to be licensed, the owner identification information needs to be readily visible from the exterior of the shelter and displayed with characters at least two inches high.
- Options for displaying the owner identification information include (you can pick one):
 - The owner's name and complete address
 - The owner's driver's license number
 - The MDNR# license identification number of the shelter license issued to the owner

HELPFUL HINT: Be careful of laminating the shelter license for display. Heat activated laminators can turn the license nearly completely black because the license paper is a heat-activated paper/ink system. Likewise, extended exposure to other sources of heat or sun could render the license illegible. You can purchase a duplicate license if your shelter license is damaged or destroyed.

Deadlines – When does my shelter need to be off the ice?

- See page 72 of the Fishing Regulations booklet for detailed information on removal deadlines.
- Depending on the weather and ice conditions, it may be necessary to remove your shelter from the ice before these published deadlines.

Litter and Trash

- Clean up after yourself, take trash off the lake/ice with you.
- It is unlawful to leave litter or other trash, or parts from your shelter, on the ice.

Safety

- Ice is never 100 percent safe – check strength frequently.
- You can't judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone – many factors combine to determine its strength.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly and can vary greatly even on the same body of water.
- Beware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning from heaters. Use heaters properly with plenty of ventilation, follow manufacturer's installation directions. (See pages 70 and 71 of the Fishing Regulations booklet for more detailed recommendations.)

[Fishing Regulations](#)

Information Center: 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367)