

TURTLES AND CONSTRUCTION

TURTLES KINGSTON

When construction within/near turtle habitats (e.g. wetlands, rivers, lakes) cannot be scheduled outside of the main turtle season, of May through September, there are things we can do to ensure construction activities do not hurt our turtle neighbours.

MITIGATION

Mitigation is key for keeping turtles out of and safe from construction activities. This is done by installing temporary exclusion fencing around the entire work area by May 1st.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Exclusion fencing must be installed by May 1st so that it is in position prior to the nesting season: good exclusion fencing keeps turtles from nesting in the construction site – disturbed soil is a magnet for nesting turtles!

INSTALLING EXCLUSION FENCING

Fencing should extend past the work area, or fully enclose the area. Ending the fencing right at the edge of the work area could result in turtles going around it. Turtles can be quite determined to get to potential nesting grounds! Silt, black fabric fencing on wooden stakes is an affordable temporary fencing option. The fencing needs to be at least 60 cm tall and trenched into the ground.



KEEPING TURTLES OUT OF THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE IS THE FIRST AND SIMPLEST WAY TO KEEP THEM SAFE

PROTECTING TURTLES

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All 8 of Ontario's turtles are species at risk, meaning their populations are declining. They need our help to ensure their survival.



ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

It is **illegal to excavate, alter, or put a turtle nest at risk of being destroyed**. This means that if a turtle nests within a construction site, the nest cannot be moved without appropriate permits and training, it must be isolated so that it is not disturbed.

Although permits can be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, they do not provide permits if construction activities near a turtle nest can be delayed until the nest emerges (which could be the following spring between March and June).

NEST RESCUE PROGRAM

When a turtle nest is deemed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to qualify for a permit (emergency authorization for removal), Turtles Kingston's can help with the extraction process. We collect a fee to support the nest rescue program and egg incubation.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A TURTLE IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE

The presence of a turtle means there is the possibility that nests may also be within the construction site. A trained biologist should be hired at this point to check for existing turtle nests and temporary exclusion fencing should be placed to keep future turtles out of the site. If temporary exclusion fencing is already present then it should be inspected for holes, gaps, or mounds that are allowing turtles to access the site. Any turtles found in a construction site can be carefully moved outside of the site as long as they are not actively nesting. If any turtle nests or eggs are found, stop activities and contact Turtles Kingston.



**CONTACT TURTLES KINGSTON WITH QUESTIONS
AND PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
TURTLESKINGSTON@GMAIL.COM**

