

Examples of Trail Blazes


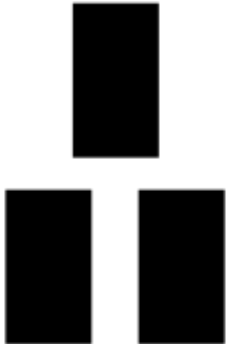


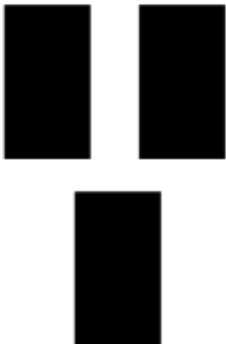

Blaze My Trails



Blazing Trails

Blazing, or marking, your trails is a great way to help you and your family explore your land with less fear of getting lost. If you know which trail you're on, you'll have a better sense of where you are on your land—and how far you need to go to get back.

You can mark your trails in multiple ways, the most common being with paint or signs. This slide show gives examples of how others have used blazes to point the way through their woods.

<p>CONTINUE STRAIGHT</p> 	<p>START OF TRAIL</p> 	<p>RIGHT TURN</p> 
<p>SPUR LEADING TO A DIFFERENT TRAIL</p> 	<p>END OF TRAIL</p> 	<p>LEFT TURN</p> 

Whether using paint or signs, arranging them in these standard symbols will make your trails easier to navigate.

Can you spot all three blazes in this picture? Hint: One of them has two marks on the same tree.





Blaze color matters. Choose vibrant colors like blue and pink. Avoid red, which fades quickly and becomes difficult to see. You can make blazes more visible by adding a white border.



Painted blazes don't last forever. This white blaze is about 10 years old and is difficult to see. Repaint your blazes when they fade.

You'll most commonly put blazes on trees, but you can put them other places too. This blazed rock shows a split in the trail: left for the red trail, right for the white trail.





When using signs, only drive the nail halfway into the tree to give the tree room to grow.



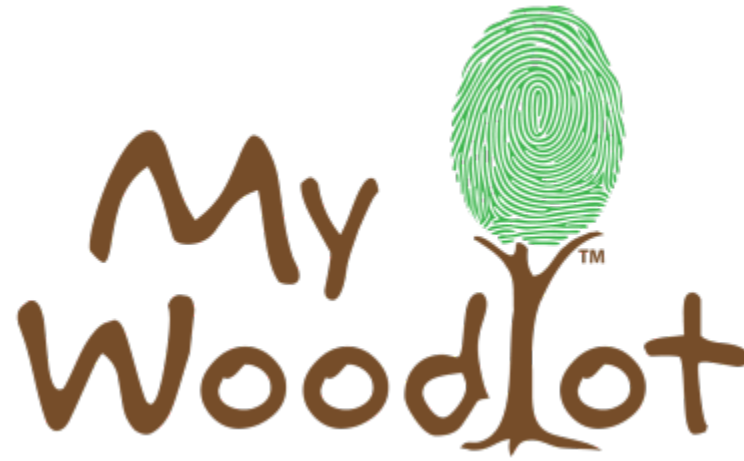
This blaze was installed incorrectly. The nail was driven all the way into the tree, so the tree had no room to grow. As a result, the blaze is crumpling and will eventually fall.



If you're looking for a more rustic approach than signs, wooden blazes can be effective too.



Cairns offer another more natural-looking trail marker. We have a whole page devoted to how to build and maintain these structures.



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