







Winter Horse Care Checklist



HEALTH

-  Evaluate your feeding program. Most horses need extra forage to keep warm through the winter.
-  Check your horse's body condition regularly, as blankets and thick winter coats may disguise a change in weight.

HORSEKEEPING

-  Pull your horse's shoes for the winter, or switch to winter shoes to provide extra traction and prevent snow build-up.
-  Check your water buckets and remove ice daily, and even more often in sub-freezing temperatures.
-  Keep blankets and brushes clean to avoid fostering skin ailments. Make sure your horse is dry under his blankets.
-  If your horse is stabled, make sure the barn is well-ventilated, and give him as much turnout as possible. Horses tolerate cold weather quite well, but are prone to respiratory problems if kept in a closed barn.

RIDING

-  Scale down your horse's work in the winter if you need to, but try to keep some type of regular work schedule to keep him fit and healthy.
-  Make sure your horse is completely cool and dry before putting on blankets or turning him loose. Use coolers to keep him from cooling out too fast and getting chilled.