

Is the outside temperature below 10°C?

GIL'S ADVICE

'Use common sense when checking your horse,' Gil says. 'For example, does he look comfortable? If in doubt, don't hesitate to ask a more experienced owner.'



Place a rug on your horse, wait 15 minutes, then check:



If you put a hand under your horse's rug does he feel cold?

Yes



Add another layer or a rug with a higher tog rating

No

Does he seem clammy?

Yes

Remove the rug or a layer, or opt for a rug with a lower tog rating

No

If he's neither cold nor clammy, then he's ideally rugged

Yes

Your horse may need a rug

Yes

Yes

No



Does your horse have 24/7 access to forage?

No

Yes

If your horse is young, healthy and has access to forage he should be OK without a rug in temperatures above 10°C

No

Is your horse clipped?



No

Is your horse old or thin?

No



Does your horse have shelter?

GIL'S ADVICE

'If a horse is old or thin, he'll use up much-needed energy keeping warm, so it's always preferable to rug him,' says Gil.

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'Keep in mind that if you move your horse to a more exposed stable facing an open yard, rather than within a barn, his rug may need to change, too,' Gil advises.

Yes

Your horse should be fine without a rug.
According to Gil: 'Until the temperature dips below 10°C, it's rarely necessary to rug a healthy, unclipped horse that has access to shelter and forage. In fact, many horses will stay warm in these conditions until temperatures drop to freezing.'



Petplan Equine