



Winter Stable Maintenance Checklist

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As the days grow colder and darker, horses will be spending more time in their stable. So, it's important to check their living area is suitably prepared to withstand the winter elements. Follow our checklist below to keep them happy and warm.

Tasks to complete ahead of winter

If your horse lives on livery, these jobs will usually be the responsibility of the yard owner – but it's worth checking that they have been done ahead of winter.

Stable ventilation

- Check the stable is well ventilated so that your horse has fresh air

Lighting

- Check that all stable lighting is working
- Replace any dead bulbs
- Clear cobwebs from fixings
- Consider investing in a rechargeable light source

Insulation

- Fix any holes or cracks in the stable
- Repair any damage to the roof to prevent leaks
- Ensure good drainage

Pipes and taps

- Check all pipes and taps for signs of freezing
- Insulate any accessible piping and taps
- Keep water containers filled and to hand as a precaution

Check nearby paths

- Ensure no frozen ice
- Have an easy-to-access store of gritting salt
- Lay salt in high traffic areas and outside stables

General jobs for horse owners

Stock up on stable enrichment

- Consider salt licks, ball feeders, mirrors, hanging toys and scratching pads to provide a variety of stimulation

Check rugs

- Check through your rug wardrobe for cleaning and/or repairs
- Set up an area where you can dry rugs over the winter

Tack maintenance

- Store your tack well – avoid leaving it anywhere cold and damp
- Check it for mould and wipe it down each week
- Invest in a saddle cover and/or bridle bag to offer additional protection

Hay and bedding

- Order hay and bedding in advance
(if this is not covered by your livery plan)

