

## Items to be kept at the barn (+ links to some suggestions/examples!)

### Everyday items:

- A halter, so you always have a backup
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/smartpak-breakaway-halter-2425>
  - <https://www.doversaddlery.com/perris-colorvision-halter/p/X1-05156/>
  - Make sure it has a leather breakaway.
    - I recommend one that has a leather crown instead of one that has a nylon crown w/ a leather tab breakaway-- the leather tabs tend to pop off unnecessarily.
  - I recommend one with an adjustable buckle under the chin and a clip on the side for the throat latch.
  - It's especially important to make sure the clip is able to face in (some brands make their clips facing out, which is wrong & leads to horses getting stuck on things... gates, haynets... (Many throat latches twist easily and can go either way, but some do not.))
- Bell boots - Even if your horse doesn't use them for turnout, if you do XC, you'll want them!
  - Arma and Horze neoprene bell boots (AKA overreach boots) are great and the least likely to cause rubs, but they do hold moisture, so may not be the best option for muddy fields.
    - <https://www.doversaddlery.com/horze-all-purpose-bell-boots/p/X1-041816/>
    - <https://www.doversaddlery.com/arma-neoprene-over-reach-boot/p/X1-04898/>
  - **If your horse wears bell boots for turnout:** Have at least one spare pair at all times! As long as your horse doesn't get rubs, leaving bell boots on 24/7 is usually best for longevity-- the more the Velcro is put on and taken off, the weaker it gets, and not everyone is super careful about how well they line up the Velcro, too.
    - Rubber bell boots are good, but some types are more likely to cause rubs if left on 24/7.
      - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/arma-over-reach-bell-boots-24093>
    - Fuzzy-topped bell boots will get wet and muddy and will never dry, leading to rubs/funky skin.
    - Centaur bell boots and PVC bell boots also cause rubs and don't hold up well to cold weather.
    - Pull-on bell boots are hard to put on and take off.
- Muzzle - if your horse goes out in a grass field, they'll need a muzzle (typically spring/summer/fall and part of winter) and having a spare muzzle is a great idea!
  - There are many good muzzle options! Typically we recommend sizing up.
  - If you purchase a detachable muzzle, just be sure you have it on a second halter, so they have a muzzle halter and a non-muzzle halter.
  - The only one I don't really like is the GreenGuard muzzle, which doesn't sit well on their noses unless it's put on the GreenGuard Halter, which can cause rubs on their face.
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/grazing-muzzle-1731>
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/shires-deluxe-comfort-grazing-muzzle-15439>
- **Spring/Summer/Fall:** A flymask with ears (or one with ears AND a nose if your horse has a white/pink nose)
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/shires-fine-mesh-fly-mask--full-face-w-ears-19102>
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/smartpak-deluxe-patterned-fly-mask-23949>
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/patterned-crusader-fly-mask-standard-with-ears-11327>
  - Please do not purchase the pull-on ones (they're harder to put on under halters, don't sit well over their eyes, and often the mesh holes are too big and therefore ineffective) or the Rambo Plus fly mask (these ones don't fit under halters).

- **Fall/Winter/Spring:** Blankets!
  - **Required:** 0 gram/no-fill “lite” weight turnout blanket with detachable hood
  - **Required:** 300-450 gram “heavy” weight turnout blanket with detachable hood
  - **Optional:** 100-250 gram “medium” weight turnout blanket with detachable hood
  - We really, really want all horses to have blankets with detachable hoods—especially if you clip your horse. And even if your horse isn’t ever clipped, hoods give us more options for keeping your horse comfortable in different types of weather.
    - Do not purchase attached-neck/combo-neck blankets, where the hood doesn’t come off.
    - Do not purchase high-neck blankets, which are likely to rub off your horse’s mane and don’t have the option of attaching a hood.
    - Do not purchase vari-layer system blankets, which can be a pain to put on & take off and are likely to be put on incorrectly (and therefore dangerously)..
    - If your blanket comes with leg straps, please remove them and leave only a tail strap— as hard as we try, we just cannot get everyone to do them correctly, so they end up being a safety issue.
  - Best blanket brands: Horseware Ireland (includes Amigo, Rambo, Rhino, & Horseware), LeMieux, SmartEquine Ultimate
  - Okay blanket brands: SmartPak Ultimate, Shires, Weatherbeeta
  - Worst blanket brands: TuffRider, Tough-1, Rugged Ride, Dover Saddlery\* (\*see end of document for names of Dover brands)

### Treatments/First-Aid:

- **For frequent use:** Witch hazel + a squirt of baby oil **OR** a 50/50 mix of baby oil + Original yellow Listerine in a spray bottle: To treat/prevent scratches, rain rot, & other skin funk.
- **For frequent use:** Durasole or Thrush Buster - to prevent/treat thrush
  - <https://www.doversaddlery.com/durasole-4-oz/p/X1-220311/>
  - [https://www.valleyvet.com/ct\\_detail.html?pgguid=30e07333-7b6a-11d5-a192-00b0d0204ae5](https://www.valleyvet.com/ct_detail.html?pgguid=30e07333-7b6a-11d5-a192-00b0d0204ae5)
  - Cheaper, but not as effective: E3 Thrush Clear
    - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/e3-thrush-clear-treatment-27063>
- Elastikon (4-inch) for wrapping hooves when they pull a shoe or have an abscess
  - <https://www.farmvet.com/Elastikon>
- Desitin or Zinc Oxide Paste for any hairless spots, rubs, & for wounds once they’re closed
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/equiderma-zinc-paste-15643>
- TRI-Care ointment or Silver Honey wound ointment/spray gel- as a topical antibiotic treatment for any scrapes/cuts
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/tricare-3way-wound-treatment-3496>
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/silver-honey-rapid-wound-repair--22198>
- Silver Honey medicated shampoo - to wash yucky spots, especially yucky legs
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/silver-honey-medicated-shampoo-26040>

### Grooming

- Santa Fe - Spray it on when they’re clean, and future dirt/dust will come off more easily!
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/absorbine-santa-fe-coat-conditioner-and-sunscreen-1780>

- Fly Spray
  - This one is not greasy, works well, and actually works as a coat conditioner, too!: [https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/flysect-super7-3430?\\_br\\_psugg\\_q=flysect](https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/flysect-super7-3430?_br_psugg_q=flysect)
- Orvus shampoo - A little goes a long way, and it does a nice job of whitening white spots without having to use purple shampoo!
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/orvus-wa-paste-shampoo-15803>
- As for whitening sprays, I haven't found one that works. Instead, I recommend a good bath followed by regular use of Santa Fe and always grooming thoroughly.
- Cooler
  - Essentially a robe for horses after baths in cooler weather, to keep them warm while they dry.
  - <https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/rambo-techniawaffle-cooler-12861>
  - [https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/smartpak-classic-fleece-cooler-3879?\\_br\\_psugg\\_q=fleece+cooler](https://www.smartpakequine.com/pt/smartpak-classic-fleece-cooler-3879?_br_psugg_q=fleece+cooler)

## Tips & Tricks

You can pick whatever colors you want for your horse's items. I try to buy things in unique colors (to make it easier to tell apart from others').

### **Label everything!**

- For blankets:
  - Search Etsy for "horse blanket tags" and you'll get some good options.
  - Write-on ziptie tags or cow tags
- For halters:
  - The Velcro ones a lot of horses have are great, unless your horse goes out with mouthy friends (\$\$\$ wasted when someone bites it off).
  - A small metal engraved tag if you want to be fancy (attached with a ziptie, not the metal rings, which will bend and become a hazard).
  - Duct tape around the cheek piece, write their name with Sharpie, and then some packaging tape over top (to keep the Sharpie from rubbing off). Doesn't last as long as fancier tags, but cheaper & easily replaced.

### **Like with people's clothes, each brand is a bit different in sizing and quality.**

- SmartEquine is where I buy 95% of my horse stuff. They have a lot of good brands, and I like their own stuff too. Plus, free return shipping for sized items!
- Amazon carries a lot of horse stuff! Both big brands and some random brands.
- If it has "tough" in the brand name, I generally don't trust it! (Tuff Rider, Tough-1).
- Dover sells a lot of good brands, but their own stuff is poorly made. They have a few lines of brands/products, including "Rider's International", "Riding Sport", "Suffolk", "NorthWind", and "DS"... I'd avoid all of those!

## When in doubt, please reach out!

**Feel free to email links to items before you buy them to get feedback, and ask for help fitting items you've bought or if you're not sure what products to use.**