

15 unusual must-have items for every stable yard

Whether you're looking to save time on yard chores or a new go-to for quick fixes, investing in these essentials will make your life a lot easier.

Checklist items

Washing machine

A yard washing machine is great for cleaning gear without messing up your home machine. Check sites like Facebook Marketplace for a cheap or free second-hand one.

Mugs, crockery and a kettle

A large Tupperware box will keep your favourite yard mugs clear of dust and spiders. A kettle is also a must, and a few spare plates and cutlery sets are useful for food on the go.

Leaf blower

A leaf blower quickly clears dust, hay and cobwebs, saving time on cleaning. But only use when horses aren't around, as stirred-up dust can affect their breathing.



O Various lengths of bailing twine

This durable string is perfect for quick fixes like tying gates, securing buckets or mending fences. Have different lengths ready to use.

Travel cot

A cot makes great, affordable hay feeder, reducing waste and allowing your horse to eat naturally. Just be sure to secure well to prevent your horse from moving it around.

O CCTV camera

Knowing what your horse is up to when you're away brings peace of mind, with options from solar-powered 4G cameras to systems using stable Wi-Fi.



Sieve

A kitchen sieve helps scoop broken ice from troughs in winter, keeping your hands dry and preventing refreezing. In the summer, it's great for removing bugs that have fallen in the water overnight.

Toolbox

Horses tend to break things, but a toolbox with handy essentials (such as a hammer and pliers) can save time and prevent injury to you and your horse.



Nappies

Keep nappies in your on-site first-aid kit – they can add padding to hoof poultices and, along with duct tape, create a tough, water-resistant cover.

Biodegradable wet wipes

From cleaning hands before lunch to wiping your horse's runny nose, wet wipes are an essential.

Exercise ball

Fitness balls offer physical and mental stimulation for horses – but use one designed for their weight, as those designed for humans may not be durable enough.



Hair brush

No need to buy a mane and tail brush if you have a regular hairbrush going spare – they do the job just as well!

Purple shampoo

This brightening shampoo removes stains and yellowing from grey or paler horses, leaving them clean and bright – perfect before a show.

Hanging sock dryer

Circular sock dryers with pegs are ideal for drying bandages and boots – but hang them out of your horse's reach!



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