

Horse Care Recipes



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Fly Control

white vinegar

2 T. dishwashing liquid

water for thinning (optional)

Fill a bottle with white vinegar and two tablespoons of dishwashing liquid. The vinegar may be diluted by adding water if you wish to dilute it a little. Shake and spray it on for a nice, very cheap fly spray.

Fly Relief

If you have problems with flies in the barn, try filling a quart jar with this mixture.

3 cups water

¼ cup sugar

¼ cup white vinegar

Mix and punch holes in the lid. Set it where needed. It works great.

Tip: A golf course near my home passes out Bounce fabric softener sheets to the golfers to repel insects. Next time you go riding, tie one to your horse's headstall and stick one in your back pocket. It works better than ANY fly spray I've ever tried. The flies won't even fly around you.

Green Dawn Fly Spray

15 oz water

5 oz commercial fly spray (any brand)

5 oz vinegar

2 oz vegetable oil

2 oz green Dawn dish soap

Mix and use. All natural and will not harm coat.



Tip: Feed your horse garlic! The sulfur in garlic is excreted through the horse's skin, keeping flies at bay. You can purchase "Bug Off" which is pure powdered garlic from Spring Time. The phone number is 800-521-3212.

Health Care Liniment

Mix equal parts:

alcohol (I use wintergreen)

witch hazel

Listerine

aloe juice (optional)

Horse Insect-Repellent Mix

1 oz. citronella oil

2 oz. Skin-So-Soft or Coat-So-Soft

1 cup cider vinegar

1 cup water

Mix in a 20 oz. spray bottle and shake to blend.

Internal Fly Repellent

If your horse is allergic to fly bites, try 1/4 cup of apple cider vinegar on their grain once a day. This raises the blood acid level just enough to bother the flies, but it is completely healthy for the horse. It takes about one week to start seeing the effects. Several old-timers have told me they always put vinegar in their horse's drinking water during the summer to repel flies and mosquitoes.



Lemon & Oil Fly Spray

500m. (2 cups) light mineral oil

125ml (1/2 cup) lemon juice

10ml (2 tsp.) citronella oil

10ml eucalyptus oil

10ml lemon dish detergent

optional 125ml glycerin

Mix in a spray bottle and spray away!

Never-Fail Fly Spray

1 tablespoon eucalyptus oil

1 to 2 tablespoons citronella Oil

1 Tablespoon camphor oil

1/3 to 1/2 cup hair conditioner (the cheapest Suave will do)

1/3 to 1/2 cup baby oil

1 cup Pine Sol (original formula)

water enough to fill bottle

Mix first six (6) ingredients together in a 32 oz. bottle and fill to the top with water. Shake gently to mix.

If you decide to experiment with this recipe, remember that you must have an emulsifier to break down the oils, mix the ingredients into a solution, and enable you to spray as a fine mist. Pine Sol has a lot of emulsifier; the hair conditioner has some too (Suave has quite a bit- other brands not so much).



One-Ingredient Fly Spray

6 capfuls Skin-So-Soft

water

Pour six capfuls of Skin-So-Soft in a 20 ounce spray bottle, and continue filling with water. Shake and spray.

Too-Easy Fly Spray

water

citronella

Mix seven parts water with one part citronella as a fly spray. It won't be oily. Mix four parts water to one part citronella during the worst of the fly season. You can order citronella from:

Triple J Incorporated

Citronella Oil

P.O. box 981

Valrico, FL 33595

813-643-2781



Tips for Horse Lovers

I just read a great idea for on the trail. If you need to repair a broken head stall or a rivet comes loose, use a couple of strands of your horse's tail to tie it together. It's very strong and will get you back to camp.

Hoof Conditioner - Use petroleum jelly and a paintbrush for cracked or dry hoofs. It works great, better than Rainmaker, Hooflex or any others and it's a lot cheaper.

Homemade Show Sheen Recipe

1/4 (one quarter) cup hair conditioner

1/4 (one quarter) cup baby oil

2 tablespoons vinegar (to keep flies away, this is optional)

1/4 (one quarter) cup water

For stubborn proud flesh, try a small amount of Adolph's Meat Tenderizer with a few drops of water to make a paste. Rub on area twice daily until gone!! Incredible? It really works!!

When we go out riding in fly season, (We have horse flies that are HUGE) I take a fly swatter. My girl got used to it real quick. She now will turn her head for me to rub the flies off her face. I tie it on the saddle horn, because I've lost it before. Don't just start swatting. I gradually rubbed it on her neck and between her ears. Those fly sprays don't last forever.

We use Aloe vera on any scrapes and cuts, small or large. After the first day of Aloe, we use Neosporin for the remaining time. Micotin fungus foot cream works great on rain rot or if a horse has a fungus on his tail. Don't be afraid to use a whole tube on his tail.



If your horse rolls in the mud while wearing his fly mask and gets it muddy, just use your stiffest grooming brush to brush it off when dry.

Going trail riding? To get your horse used to the new water, buy oil of peppermint in the grocery store and put a few drops in his water at home a few days before you leave. Then when you arrive, put some in the new water and he won't know the difference!

When trying to open your bales of hay and straw, instead of looking for your scissors, keep a piece of bale twine in your pocket which you can use to open the bales by placing it underneath the twine on the bale and pulling it back and fourth like you would a saw.

I have a tip on how to keep weight on a horse. Every time you feed your horse, pour vegetable oil on the grain. It gives them a soft coat and helps put on, or keep, body fat.

Use equal parts of pickling lime and sugar as a wonder powder for proud flesh! If you feel like you aren't getting enough to stay on the affected area, just moisten the area with water or aloe juice before dusting. Repeat three or four times a day.

Easy solution for medications in pill form ~ use a coffee bean grinder to pulverize (I use an electric one). Pour into a large syringe, add water, shake till a paste forms and administer it like you would paste wormer!

We reuse tuna cans in the tack room. We nail them on the wall to hang our bridals on. That way they keep their shape. People that have a barn with boarders could even spray paint them with rust paint and have them color-coded.

You can use magnets to help keep flies out of stalls. Get four cow magnets. You can purchase them from a veterinarian or livestock store. Bury them about four inches to six inches away from the four corners of your stall and deep enough so that they will not get disturbed by cleaning or the horse walking over them. But don't bury them six inches or more deep. You need to lay the magnets in a formation so that



the same polarity of each magnet is facing towards the center. There is something about the magnetic field that keeps the fly numbers down.

Look in discount stores like K Mart and Wal-Mart for training cones. You can get eight orange plastic cones for less than \$10. They will be in the sports section (Soccer). They are made to collapse on impact and are of a soft plastic so children won't be hurt using them. They are about a foot high and much easier on the pocketbook than cones found in horse catalogs.

When hauling water in a bucket, to your horse, especially if you have to put it in the back of a pickup without a lid, put an ordinary plastic garbage bag in the pail first. Fill the pail with water, twist the top of the bag closed, and tie a knot. There will be no spills, no splashing, and you can reuse the garbage bag later.

I use a five-gallon bucket for saddle racks. Take the handle off and nail the bucket to the wall with a few nails on the inside of the bucket so the opening faces out. They keep the saddle in the correct position and the bucket itself makes a wonderful place to stash your grooming gear

My tip is regarding what to do if you get a cinch sore on the trail. I always use or carry a piece of upholstery foam. It prevents cinch sores if your horse is prone to them and stops them from getting worse if your horse happens to get one. I carry it because inevitably someone on the ride is going to have this problem, and it really helps out.

Eucalyptus essential oil will remove pine tar, bubblegum, or any sticky residue instantly! Safe, cheap, and effective!

If you have a show saddle where the polish-free silver is gray, use a heavy eraser like you used in school and erase the tarnish. I tried it, and it made my silver look brand new.

For all of you that use glycerin bar soap to clean your leather tack and don't know what to do with all those little leftover pieces, put them in a spray bottle with water and let them dissolve. There you have it! Leather New for free!



Dental floss is great for little repairs on blankets, halters, and stall guards. I've never had a stitch break. Just use a large darning needle, strong thimble, and gloves.

Mend blankets with Jean Mender. It is sold at Tractor Supply Company and is a rubbery glue-type adhesive that is water proof. It can be used to glue a patch to material or to fill puncture holes. Jean Mender is made by Val-A-Chicago, Inc., 700 West Root Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Here's a tip I recommend for itchy tails. I have an Appaloosa gelding who doesn't have much hair to begin with, and when the flies start biting he starts scratching his rear. Mix equal parts of Listerine mouth wash (original formula) and cheap baby oil in a spray bottle. Spray on and finger comb it through to the roots. This mixture seems to keep the flies away and the baby oil also softens the hair and moisturizes the tail bone skin. I even put it on his mane as it seems to get rid of dandruff too.

Best Ever Fly Repellent

A golf course near my home passes out Bounce fabric softener sheets to the golfers to repel insects. Next time you go riding, tie one to your horse's headstall and stick one in your back pocket. It works better than ANY fly spray I've ever tried. The flies won't even fly around you.

Use Noxema to keep gnats, mayflies, and mosquitoes out of your horse's ears. Presuming that the ears aren't clipped, just put a small dollop on your hand and rub it on the top of the ears. I put some under the throat, chest, belly line, and inside the legs. Use it anywhere the little varmints go!

If your horse keeps rubbing his tail out, put Listerine in a spray bottle and spray the horse's tail bone. Get it good and wet, and rub it in. It has worked for me.

To scrub out a water bucket on the spot, I take a handful of hay; and just scrub the bucket with that. It makes an easy clean up, and the hay rinses right out with all the gunk. Then I don't have to worry about finding a brush or sponge to clean with.



I use an old spaghetti strainer to strain out hay and stuff from the water buckets or water tanks. It also works good when trying to get broken ice chunks out of same. Your hands stay warmer!

To keep my salt block clean and high and dry, I visit my local tire shop and find a tire that is just wide enough for a salt block with a tight squeeze to hold it firmly. I then drill several holes in the bottom to allow rain water to escape and tie this tire to a tall fence post or nail it to a barn wall.

I find that using A & D ointment on my thoroughbred gelding helps his scars to disappear. It also works on any old or new wounds, because it keeps the flies off the wound and helps new hair grow in. Just rub it right on the wound.

My helpful horse tip is to prevent proud flesh. Make a dilution of one part water and one part Clorox bleach and apply to the area of the wound. This helps the skin retreat instead of growing outward. One application every other day is adequate.

In very cold climates to save on your electric bill, you should insulate your water trough. The easiest way to do this is to use a chest freezer that no longer works. I cut a hole in the lid and keep the heater in it. The freezer is well insulated and free.

Your horse will not drink his water? Fill half your water bucket with hot water and the rest with cold water, or add salt to his water bucket. They work! Pastel

I feed my horse dried seaweed mixed into his grain every day. It has made a big difference in his hooves and coat. I buy the seaweed in the oriental section of any grocery store, and it is very cheap! Just tear off a chunk about two inches in diameter. Then shred it into tiny pieces and put into the grain mixture. One bag lasts about two weeks and costs only about \$1.25. No more expensive supplements for me!



If you need a quick pair of cheaters for a child to ride in an adult saddle, try using your back cinch. Just remove it from the saddle, place it over the seat of the saddle, and buckle a stirrup on each end of the cinch. Attach the strap that normally keeps your front and back cinch together around the saddle horn. This is very secure and much less expensive than the ones purchased at your tack store.

Refresh your horse by carrying a spray bottle with plain water. Just spray the horse with the water. We tried it on my mare, and it really did seem to help. She enjoyed being sprayed, and it brought back a little life in her.

If you have a horse that is afraid of the fly spray being applied, you can use an old bingo blotter thoroughly cleaned or use a new one. Simply fill with the fly spray and dab on. This also works well for liniment, first aid ointments, cut heal, etc.

Transporting hay is easy and mess free if you put your bales in plastic garbage bags. You can buy 3 mil thick bags made for 55 gallon drums at Quality Farm And Fleet. They are large enough for the biggest bale of hay with enough room left over to tie the bag closed. When you reach your destination, just put the bales outside. They will stay dry even if it rains. We prop the bales vertically against any tree that is conveniently located near our picket lines. Put the open end up, and it's easy to lift out enough to feed your horse.

The usual applesauce and molasses wasn't working when my horse had to have Pancur powder for 5 days. A vet tech guaranteed that cherry Jello sprinkled over the feed would work. I mixed a little Jello powder with the feed then sprinkled more over the top. He cleaned up everything. Use about half of a 3 ounce box for each feeding. Jello also works in water that might taste different at a show.

I use Blue Dawn original formula, not ultra, to bathe my horse for shows. It works great, makes him shine, and is really cheap!

