

Now is the time to inspect all of your tack and equipment for wear and do any needed repairs.

Sometimes we get busy and just take for granted that our tack will always be ready for our next ride. Follow our checklist and you will have everything you need ready for your next adventure.

Halters and Lead Ropes

- Nylon & Rope Halters can be washed in your washing machine - use those garment bags to keep them from banging around. Air dry and inspect all buckles and knots.
- Lead ropes can also be washed in your washing machine. A mild detergent and fabric softener work best – do not use bleach, it is not necessary. If you have double braid nylon lead ropes with leather poppers, make sure you apply neatsfoot oil to the poppers after washing. It is important to keep the double braid clean as the particles of dirt that get into the core can actually cut the fibers and weaken your rope. Inspect your snaps, spray with lubricant and replace as needed.



Bits and Bridles & Reins

- Clean your bits and check for any jagged edges.
- Use saddle soap on your bridle and follow with a good dose of neatsfoot oil. Inspect it for any broken snaps or worn parts and replace as needed. Lubricate your snaps.
- If you have a nylon or synthetic bridle, you can wash this in your washing machine as indicated above. Be sure to remove the bit!
- Leather reins can be cleaned with saddle soap and oiled as you did for your bridle. Be sure to inspect the area where the reins attach to the bit for wear and replace them if needed.
- Double braid nylon reins that attach with slobber straps or snaps can be washed in your washing machine as well. It is good practice to keep your rope reins clean as the dirt will cut and weaken the fibers. Make sure to remove the leather slobber straps before washing and oil any leather poppers after they are dry. Slobber straps should be cleaned with saddle soap and oiled.
- Horsehair reins can be hand washed in Woolite and air dried.
- Nylon reins can be washed in your washing machine and air dried.
- Natural Hackamores made from nylon can be washed in your machine as well.

Saddle Blankets and Pads

- Blankets and pads should have the underside brushed with a stiff brush and washed per the instructions that came with the blanket or pad.
- If you pad has any shims or air filled chamber inserts, remember to remove these before washing.
- Check blankets and pads for any worn areas or areas that may cause your horse discomfort and replace if needed.



Saddles & Bareback Pads and other leather tack

- Check the entire saddle for any loose areas or areas that flex that shouldn't
- Clean your entire saddle with saddle soap and follow up with neatsfoot oil when dry. Be careful when using oil on light colored saddles as it can discolor the leather. Follow the manufactures directions first.
- Synthetic saddles can be vacuumed or blown off with an air compressor and wiped down with a damp cloth.
- Use suede cleaner on any suede parts of your saddle.
- Check to make sure that your leather billets are not getting worn out. (see photos)
- Check all buckles and attachments to make sure they are in good condition.
- Check that your stirrup leathers/fenders are not becoming worn where they attach to the saddle. This is a very easy place to ignore. Remember that your stirrup leathers can stretch unevenly if you mount from the same side all the time (another good reason to learn to mount from both sides).
- On western saddles always make sure you have stirrup hobbles as the stirrup can flip around and get hung up.
- Check your latigos and make sure it is in good condition.
- Clean, inspect and oil your breast collars, cruppers and any other leather tack you are using.
- Clean your cinch and check for any weak areas, repair or replace as needed.
- If you have a mohair cinch (or if you have a rope cinch and are not sure if it is mohair) you can wash it by hand in Woolite and air dry.



Off Billet * Near Billet

Regular inspection of these critical saddle parts can prevent unnecessary accidents.

Training Sticks & Strings, Spurs, Chaps, Chinks and such

- The little leather tip on your training stick takes a lot of abuse. Use saddle soap to clean it and make sure you apply neatsfoot oil when dry.
- Wash your nylon string in the washing machine and apply neatsfoot oil to the popper when dry.
- Clean and inspect your spurs, follow with polish and neatsfoot oil when dry.
- Clean and oil your chaps and chinks. Inspect for broken or worn straps or snaps.

Blankets, Fly Sheets, Saddle Bags & Wraps

- These items can be washed in your washing machine or in those large commercial washers at the laundry mat. (Make sure you go late and remove all the horse hair from the machines; preferably ask the owner if you can launder your horse clothes there).
- Check all buckles and look for wear spots.
- Empty out your saddle bags and vacuum or launder. Follow up with neatsfoot oil as needed. Check all areas where the bags attach to your saddle for wear.
- Leg Wraps can be washed in your washing machine and air dried. Wrap up when dry.
- Neoprene leg boots can be washed in your washing machine - take care to secure the Velcro before washing.

This is also a good time to make up your Christmas Wish List to replace any worn out items you have or add some new ones you don't have.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR TACK AND IT WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU!