






## Why Feed Room Biosecurity Matters




The feed room is a central hub in any equine facility. It's where feed, supplements, and often medications are stored and prepared. This makes it a potential source for introducing or spreading diseases and parasites due to the organic nature of the feed itself and the fact that it is being ingested.

## Key Biosecurity Tips




### Storage:

-  Secure feed storage
-  Prevent contamination
-  Temperature control
- **Secure Feed Storage:** Store all feed and supplements in sealed, rodent-proof and insect-proof containers. This prevents contamination from pests and environmental factors.
- **Prevent Contamination:** Never store medications, cleaning supplies, or other chemicals in the feed room. Keep the area exclusively for feed and related items.
- **Temperature Control:** Maintain a cool, dry environment in the feed room to prevent spoilage and mould growth. Proper ventilation is essential.

### Hygiene:

-  Regular cleaning
-  Disinfect surfaces
-  Hand hygiene
- **Regular Cleaning:** Sweep and clean the feed room regularly to remove spilled feed, dust, and debris. A clean environment discourages pests and reduces the risk of contamination.
- **Disinfect Surfaces:** Periodically disinfect surfaces, including feed bins, scoops, and preparation areas, with an appropriate equine-safe disinfectant. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling feed, especially if you've been in contact with other horses or animals.

Management:

-  Rotate feed
  -  Inspect feed
  -  Pest control
- **Rotate Feed:** Use the “first in, first out” method for feed storage to ensure that older feed is used before newer feed. This helps prevent spoilage and nutrient loss.
  - **Inspect Feed:** Regularly inspect feed for signs of mould, insects, or other contaminants. Discard any feed that appears to be compromised.
  - **Pest Control:** Implement a comprehensive pest control program to minimize the presence of rodents, insects, and birds in and around the feed room. Work with a professional pest control service if necessary.

## Feed Room Biosecurity Checklist

Task	Frequency	Completed
Sweep and clean feed room	Daily	
Inspect feed for mould/pests	Weekly	
Clean feed scoops and buckets	Daily	
Disinfect surfaces	Weekly	
Check for and repair any holes or cracks in the feed room structure	Monthly	
Rotate feed supply	As needed (when new feed arrives)	
Review and update pest control measures	Quarterly	

## Conclusion

By implementing these biosecurity tips and consistently using the checklist, you can create a safer and healthier environment for your horses. Remember that proactive biosecurity is an ongoing effort that requires diligence and attention to detail. A small investment in prevention can save you significant time, money, and heartache in the long run.

**For help and advice contact the EBC team on;**

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