

TACK ROOM BIOSECURITY



Keeping your horse's tack room bio secure is essential for preventing the spread of infectious diseases — especially in yards with a high turnover of horses, shared equipment, and close proximity between horses.



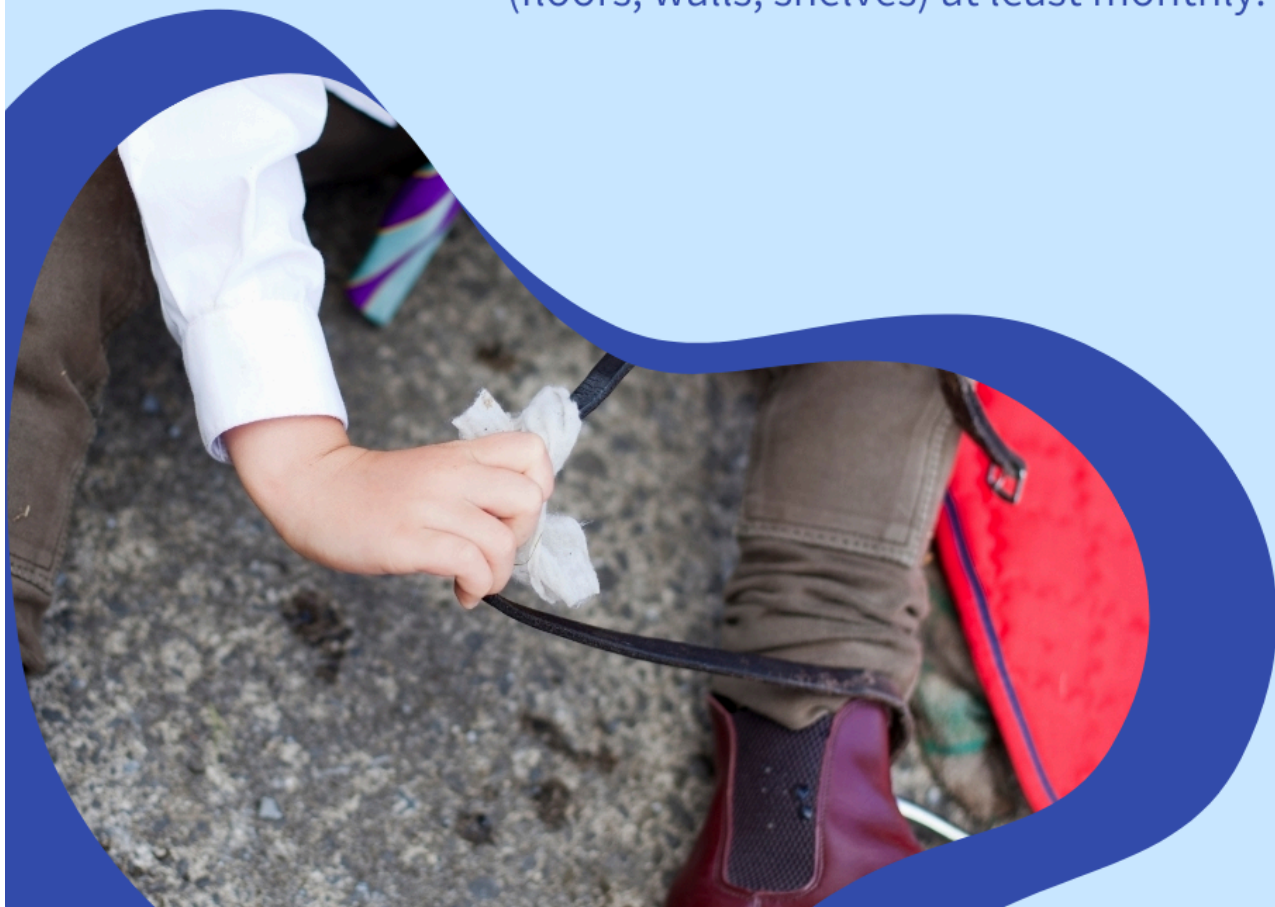
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Cleanliness is Key

Regularly clean and disinfect all tack, grooming tools, and equipment. Use a disinfectant on the DEFRA-approved disinfectants list like EndoSan.

Schedule deep cleans of the tack room itself (floors, walls, shelves) at least monthly.

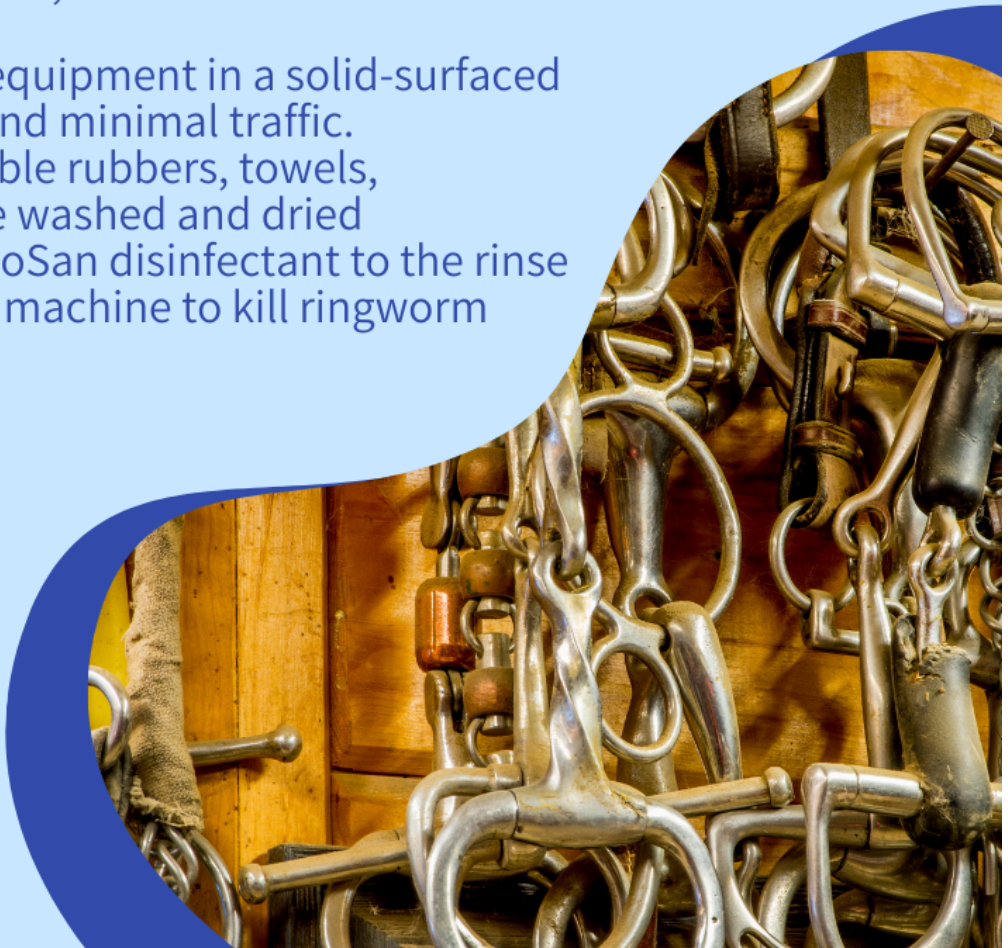


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Tack & Equipment Protocol:

- Horse-specific equipment (saddles, bridles, head collars, grooming kits etc) should be clearly labelled and used only for that horse.
- Shared equipment (lead ropes, Chiffneys, thermometers etc) should be cleaned of organic debris and disinfected between horses.
- Non-disinfectable items (e.g., sponges) should not be shared. Provide separate, labelled sets.
- All equipment should be regularly scrubbed, cleaned with detergent, rinsed and disinfected with EndoSan.
- Clean and disinfect equipment in a solid-surfaced area with drainage and minimal traffic.
- Cloth items (e.g., stable rubbers, towels, bandages) should be washed and dried thoroughly. Add EndoSan disinfectant to the rinse cycle of the washing machine to kill ringworm spores.



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Separate Equipment

- Each horse should have its own tack, rugs and grooming equipment. Label them clearly
- Never share bits, girths, or grooming tools between horses unless thoroughly disinfected in EndoSan Disinfectant.
- EndoSan disinfectant is suitable for use in bridle dip buckets
- Keep each horse's numnah separate, don't pile them on top of each other.

No Outside Equipment

- Don't allow visiting riders or horses to bring their own tack, brushes, or buckets into your tack room.
- Set up a designated, separate area for visiting gear.



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Foot Traffic Control

- Use foot dips or mats soaked in disinfectant at the entrance of your tack room.
- Ask all visitors to use them before entering.
- Limit who has access to the tack room — ideally only staff or assigned riders.
- Keep hand sanitiser or disinfectant wipes at the door.

Isolation Protocols

- If a horse is suspected of having an infectious disease (e.g., strangles, equine flu), quarantine them and move their equipment to the isolation area.
- Disinfect all surfaces the infected horse's equipment may have touched.

Record-Keeping & Routine

- Keep a logbook for disinfection routines and any incidents (e.g., biosecurity breaches, illness).
- Post a clear biosecurity policy on the tack room door for everyone to follow.

Rodent, Bird & Insect Control:

Evaluate and control pests, especially in isolation areas.

- Seal cracks and holes.
- Keep areas clear of spilled feed/water. (It's not a good idea to use the tack room as a staff room)
- Use pest control if you have a problem



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Waste management;

Training should be provided as to which coloured bags to use for different kinds of waste – you also need to keep a record of the the bags used and when, this should be available for staff to review printed out in a folder.

Bag Colour	Category of Waste	Method of Disposal
Orange	Infectious / Non Contaminated	Incineration
Tiger	Offensive	Recycling, Incineration, Landfill
Red	Anatomical	Incineration
Purple	Cytotoxic and Cytostatic	Incineration



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Tack Room Expectations:

- Keep the tack room dry, secure, and tidy with adequate lighting and space.
- Damp environments encourage bacterial and fungal growth
- Provide sufficient tack storage for associated equipment, such as boots, grooming kits and rugs, store neatly to avoid obstruction
- Have a system for identifying and labelling tack. Saddles and bridles should be stored on their own racks with labelling to avoid the risk of incorrect tack being used.
- Maintain records of which horse has which equipment.
- Tack and equipment used at stay away shows and camps should be cleaned and disinfected, before they are returned to the tack room.



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Conclusion;

Maintaining high biosecurity standards in your tack room is not just good practice — it's essential for protecting the health and welfare of your horses. Shared environments like livery yards, riding schools, and competition venues create ideal conditions for disease transmission. Without proper precautions, infections such as strangles, equine influenza, and ringworm can spread rapidly through contaminated tack, shared grooming tools, and human contact.

By implementing a robust biosecurity routine in the tack room — including disinfection, separate equipment, pest control, and good record-keeping — you significantly reduce the risk of outbreaks. This not only protects your horses but also saves time, money, and stress from avoidable illness and enforced quarantines.

A clean, well-managed tack room is a cornerstone of a healthy yard. It's about prevention, responsibility, and caring for the horses who rely on us to keep them safe





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