

EBG TACK ROOM BIOSECURITY GUIDE

Practical tips and best practices



A **biosecure tack room** is essential for preventing the spread of disease among horses. Your tack room can unintentionally harbor and spread pathogens if proper hygiene and biosecurity protocols aren't followed. This EBG guide provides practical tips and best practices to help you maintain a biosecure tack room and protect your horses' health.

Why is Tack Room Biosecurity Important?

Tack and equipment can easily become contaminated with bacteria, viruses, and fungi. These pathogens can then be transferred between horses, leading to illness and potentially outbreaks. A biosecure tack room minimizes these risks and ensures the health and wellbeing of your equines.

Key Risks:

- Cross-contamination
- Shared equipment
- Poor hygiene
- Environmental factors

Pathogens can survive on surfaces for extended periods. Shared equipment, such as brushes, blankets, and even bits, can easily transmit disease. Regular cleaning and disinfection are crucial to reduce the pathogen load within the tack room. Also, ensure to maintain the room is kept dry and well ventilated, reducing the likelihood of pathogen survival and growth.

Practical Tips for a Biosecure Tack Room

1. Cleaning and Disinfection:

- **Regular Schedule:** Establish a routine cleaning and disinfection schedule. This should include sweeping, dusting, and disinfecting surfaces regularly.
- **Appropriate Disinfectants:** Use equine-safe disinfectants that are effective against a broad range of pathogens. EBG disinfectant can be sprayed onto your horses bit and left without having to wipe it off!
- **Target Surfaces:** Pay special attention to high-touch surfaces such as door handles, light switches, saddle racks, and grooming tools.

- **Footdips:** Consider placing footdips with disinfectant at the entrance to the tack room to prevent tracking in contaminants.

2. Equipment Management:

- **Dedicated Equipment:** Ideally, each horse should have its own set of tack and grooming equipment. If this is not possible, thoroughly clean and disinfect shared equipment at least once a week. Labelling items can help so you know which horse it belongs to.
- **Storage:** Store tack properly on racks or in containers to prevent contamination from dust, rodents, and insects.
- **Fabric Items:** Regularly wash saddle pads, blankets, and wraps in hot water with detergent, you can use EBG disinfectant in your washing machine.
- **Quarantine:** Always quarantine new equipment before introducing it to the tack room. Disinfect anything second-hand before using.

3. Hygiene Practices:

- **Hand Hygiene:** Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling tack or horses. You can use EBG multi purpose spray for hand hygiene.
- **Clothing:** Wear clean clothing when working around horses and tack. Avoid wearing the same clothes you wear when visiting other farms or horse facilities.
- **Footwear:** Use dedicated footwear for the tack room and surrounding areas. This will help prevent tracking in contaminants from outside.

4. Pest Control:

- **Rodent and Insect Control:** Implement a pest control program to minimize the presence of rodents and insects in the tack room. These pests can carry and transmit diseases.
- **Proper Storage:** Store feed and grain in sealed containers to prevent attracting pests.
- **Regular Inspections:** Regularly inspect the tack room for signs of pest activity.

5. Access Control:

- **Limited Access:** Limit access to the tack room to essential personnel only. This reduces the risk of introducing contaminants from outside sources.
- **Visitor Protocol:** Implement a visitor protocol that includes hand hygiene and footwear disinfection.
- **Signage:** Post signage reminding people of biosecurity protocols.

Best Practices Summary

- **Clean Regularly:** Implement a regular cleaning and disinfection schedule.
- **Separate Equipment:** Use dedicated equipment for each horse whenever possible.
- **Practice Hygiene:** Emphasize hand hygiene and clean clothing.
- **Control Pests:** Implement a pest control program.
- **Limit Access:** Restrict access to the tack room.

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Next Steps

By implementing these tips and best practices, you can significantly improve the biosecurity of your tack room and protect your horses from disease. Regularly review and update your biosecurity protocols to ensure they remain effective. A proactive approach to biosecurity is an investment in the long-term health and wellbeing of your equine companions.