

Blanket Care

How to Fold and Store Blankets

Folding and storing your horse blankets is an essential part of ensuring their longevity. During the blanket season, store them off the ground, on a blanket rack, bar, or in a bag. Refer to “How to Put on a Horse Blanket” for helpful instructions on folding the blanket in thirds as you remove it off your horse. This not only makes it easier to put the blanket back on your horse, but it also helps when hanging it.

There are several options for blanket racks, bars, or bags to choose from.

During the Season

During the season, it is best to ensure your blankets stay as clean as possible. If needed, brush off any dried dirt or mud on the outside. Keep the inside of the blanket clean and dry as well. If extremely dirty, you might need to have them cleaned during the season.

During the Off-Season

During the off-season it is crucial to clean and store your blankets properly to protect your investment and help ensure that they're ready to go when the cool weather comes again.

Washing/Storage

Before storing your blankets, it's important to wash them and make any necessary repairs. (Don't know the best way to clean your horse's blankets? Check out our tips below!) Once your horse's blankets are clean, dry, and in good repair, store them in a sealed container such as the bag they came in, a tote or trunk, or a vacuum seal storage bag to keep dirt, mold, mildew, and any pesky critters out.

When it comes to washing your horse's blankets, you have two options: washing them yourself or using a laundry service.

If you choose the do-it-yourself route, you can use your own washer or head to the laundromat. Do not use a washing machine with an agitator since it will damage the material and fill. Use a front loading washer with high capacity. If you're going to try a laundromat, be sure to call first to make sure that horse blankets are allowed. Pre-wash at the barn first by using a stiff brush to get any excess hair, mud, or dirt off the blanket, hose it off, and hang it to dry.

You should follow the washing instructions provided by the manufacturer, and consider using a detergent specifically designed for horse blankets (please note that not following the manufacturer instructions may void any warranty). Once washed, hang dry. Re-waterproofing blankets after they are clean will help ensure they are ready to go next season.

Many areas offer horse blanket washing services. If you've never used a blanket laundry service before, ask your barn mates or other riders for recommendations. When you are researching different services available, a few things to consider are whether they apply a waterproofing coating after they have finished washing them, if they offer blanket repairs, and their drop-off and pick-up requirements.

Re-Waterproofing Horse Blankets and Sheets

A number of factors, including age, improper washing, and improper storage can cause the waterproof coating of your horse's turnout blankets and sheets to break down over time. If you notice that water no longer "beads off" your horse's turnout blanket or sheet, this may indicate that it needs to be re-waterproofed. Just like with washing, you have two options when it comes to re-waterproofing your blankets: doing it yourself or sending them to a professional blanket washing and repair company.

If you're already planning to send your blankets and sheets to a professional to be washed, look for a laundry service that also offers re-waterproofing services.

Keep in mind that before you re-waterproof your horse's blankets, it is a smart idea to check with the manufacturer to see if re-waterproofing will invalidate any warranties in the future. In addition, you can ask if they have any specific recommendations for what type of re-waterproofing product to use on their blankets.

There are a variety of sprays and wash-in products that you can use to re-waterproof your horse blankets. You can use products that are designed specifically for horse blankets or you could use general waterproofing products. Again, caution with regards to any warranties the blanket may have. After you've chosen a product, read the instructions on the bottle carefully and apply it as directed for maximum benefit.

Folding for Storage

Folding a horse blanket into thirds will not only make it easy to hang but also easy to donn it back on your horse. For off-season storage after it is cleaned, find a large, clean surface or have a friend assist. First, fold the blanket in half lengthwise, down the center of the back. Fold over the neck and tail cover to make the whole blanket into a square. Fold again in half lengthwise, and then thirds from the tail to neck.