



## Why Not All Equines Need a Winter Horse Blanket - Stable Blankets Can Make Some Horses Colder in the Winter.

When the cold winter weather hits, many horse owners automatically bring out the horse blankets. However, a horse's normal winter coat is much more insulating than a blanket, and unless the horse has been clipped, is outside without a windbreak, or has been moved to a colder climate during winter months, it will usually actually be warmer without a blanket. The longer winter coat helps to trap the body heat against the skin. Also, tiny muscles in the skin raise the hairs, creating tiny air pockets that heighten the insulating effect. Flatten this 'fluffed-up' coat by adding layers of light blankets, or even one heavy one, can actually make the horse colder.

If a horse is not accustomed to being blanketed, it can put the horse at increased risk. If it becomes overheated, it will begin to sweat. The dampness causes it to become chilled later, which then increases the risk of

pneumonia or other respiratory infections. If a horse must be blanketed in the colder temperatures of morning, make sure that you or another responsible hand is there to take the blanket off when temperatures rise later in the day.

Therefore, it is important to choose a blanket that is appropriate to how much extra protection from the weather that the horse genuinely needs. Modern blankets are much warmer and resistant to weather than traditional wool blankets, using inner and outer shells with an insulating fiber between. Outer shells are usually made of synthetics which are water repellent and windproof, while the inner lining is smoother than wool so it won't chafe against the horse's skin. The filling between them provides warmth with much less bulk than older blankets. This means the overall blanket is light enough not to flatten the horse's coat, and is more durable than their wool or cotton predecessors.



The outer shells, made of nylon fiber, will not snag or tear and are treated to be waterproof, which also makes them resistant to rot and mildew. This waterproofing also helps to hold heat in, but in the most extreme cold, the coating might crack. Foam particles or fiberfill usually make up the filler due to their insulating properties, without weight.

Making sure that the blanket fits the horse properly is important, regardless of the blanket type. One that is too tight will irritate the skin and put the horse at risk of developing abrasions and sores, while a blanket that is too large can slip down under the horse's belly. Not only will that result in the loss of almost all the blanket's insulating ability, if the horse gets its legs tangled in the blanket's straps, it can be seriously injured. Putting the blanket on properly also helps to ensure a good fit. Put it on well forward, then slide it gently back into position to keep it from pulling the coat the wrong way.

Each horse should have its own blanket. Sharing blankets can facilitate the spread of skin problems such as girth itch, ringworm, and other fungal infections. Even if no horses in the stable have known skin problems, fungal spores can cling to the blankets and be spread to other horses. The blankets should be washed if they are used often during the winter, at least twice, using cold water and a disinfectant soap. Rinse the blankets well to make sure that no soap residue remains to irritate the horse's skin.

Cold water washing is preferable to dry cleaning. Dry cleaning will not remove odors, and the heat and chemical solvents can dissolve the waterproofing and shrink the bindings.

# What's New at PDC Tack

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This year more than ever we are seeing a struggle to get ready for the holidays. We would like to help out in any way we can, to make things easier we have put into place these new plans.

## Layaway Plans

Now you can put any new item on layaway for 8 or 12 weeks. With only a 10% or \$20 down you can pay on items for 8 weeks or if your total item amount to \$300.00 or more you can opt for the 12 week plan with \$35 or 10% down. See store for more details.

## Hold Plan

Have you had your eye on something in the store and are just waiting to buy it? If you put 50% down we will hold the item for 14days for you.

## Holiday Special Orders

We know that sometime when you are looking for something and we do not have it in stock it seems like a hassle to order it in and then you have to come back in later. We can have items shipped directly to your home when you pre-pay for an item. We have a large number of items we have not added to our inventory but can easily order for you. Please remember we are a small family owned company and we are trying to grow. We appreciate each and every person that comes into our store.

# November Sale

**10% Off New Paddock Boots and New Tall Boots**

**25% Select New Thornhill Saddles in Stock**

# Pre Black Friday Sale

Why wait till the week before Thanksgiving to save? We are featuring an exceptional sale each week of November just for you! Save now and relax for the holiday.

November 5-6th

30% Off on any new Breeches or Jods

Not Valid with other discount, coupon must be present

November 12-13th

35% Off on any new Show Coat

Not Valid with other discount, coupon must be present

November 15-16

40% Off on any new Bridles or Headstalls

Not Valid with other discount, coupon must be present

November 26-27

45% Off on any new In stock Blanket or Sheet

Not Valid with other discount, coupon must be present

## Goose Neck Trailer for sale

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1989 MERHOW

2 Horse Goose Neck with a dressing room, water tank. It is a ramp load, with room for tack. The outside needs just a little trim work but the floor is in great shape. Priced to move \$1500.00 Please contact Donna Miller at Hollowbrook Stables for more information and a picture. (717) 786-8110 or (717) 413-2147 Cell

## In store Postings

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These are two posting up on the wall in the store, please come in for more info...

Cosmo Kramer-Thoroughbred 2004 black gelding with star and white socks. 16.2hh he has done dressage, eventing, hunter, and Lessons. \$2,200.00 Contact Carrie Vaughan at (610) 268-2993

Stallion Mini for sale-Beautiful Palomino yearling with a fun and loving temperament. Call Lexi for more information at (814)671-9224

Pictures for both are in the store also.

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For a listing of current show and events please see [WWW.horsedelval.com/calendar.html](http://WWW.horsedelval.com/calendar.html)

Thank you for your business.

Puddle Duck Creek Tack & Apparel

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(717)923-0149

[www.pdctack.com](http://www.pdctack.com)

Tue-Sat 10:00a.m –8:00p.m

Sun 12:00p.m.-6:00p.m



We would like to wish all of  
you a very Happy  
Thanksgiving.



We will be closed November  
24-28th

To spend the holiday with Family and Friends.

We will re-open on Tuesday Nov 29th.