

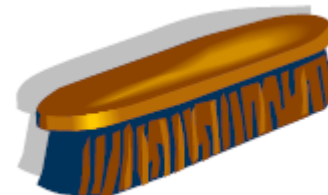


## Horse Care Info Sheet

# Equine Biosecurity—Cleaning Tips

## 3 Steps: Cleaning, Washing & Disinfection

- **Step 1:** Clean—manually remove organic matter (i.e. dirt, soiled bedding and manure).
- **Step 2:** Wash—make sure surfaces are clean, including feeders and waterers, so that disinfectants will work more effectively. Wash with soap, and water, and then rinse and let dry. Preferably scrub the surfaces with a brush (along with soapy water) no larger than the size that will fit in your hand, and then visually inspect after cleaning to be sure the surface is free of debris. Wash with soap and water and let dry.
- **Step 3:** Disinfect—discuss your plan and appropriate disinfectant with your veterinarian. All disinfectants have strengths and weaknesses and are best used for specific purposes.
- Non-porous smooth surfaces are the easiest to clean and disinfect but such surfaces are not common in horse stables, as the walls are often made of porous materials such as wood or concrete block, and floors are often sand, dirt or compact clay.
- Help create smooth waterproof surfaces that can be easily disinfected: clean walls thoroughly, patch knots with wood filler and seal with a marine varnish or polyurethane.
- Clean, wash and disinfect vehicles regularly, and more importantly after visiting another farm (don't forget about your horse trailer!), especially areas that have high human horse contact.
- Keep the interior of vehicles clean.
- Tack: Wipe with a disinfectant dampened cloth (take caution and ask a saddler about the best solution for this process).
- Don't forget to protect yourself by using the appropriate personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, coveralls or masks)



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**To learn more about equine biosecurity, register for Equine Guelph's [Sickness Prevention in Horses](#) online course and visit the [Biosecurity Risk Calculator](#) online tool.**