

Stabling of Horses

Ideally horses are kept in small groups at pasture or in individual stalls. The amount of bedding required depends on the type of flooring used. Porous flooring with plenty of lime mixed into it requires the least amount of bedding. Concrete and waterproof flooring requires the most. The approximate amount of bedding that will be needed is one bale of straw per 12/12 ft stall. Straw is the preferred bedding under emergency conditions because it is likely to be available, is space efficient, and is best for the environment. Alternatively two bales of conifer wood shavings or shredded newspapers can be used in each stall. Black walnut and exotic woods shavings or shavings of unknown origin should not be used.

Manure and soiled bedding should be removed at least once a day. For horses at pasture manure should be collected once a week if possible. Manure should be stacked in neat piles with minimal surface area because this promotes composting and reduces fly hatching. Spraying the manure piles every 3 days with fly spray can reduce the fly burden, and manure piles should be located at least 200 yards from the stables.

Horses void about 0.5% of their body weight in urine every day. Urine is a major attractant for stable flies. Removing all bedding every 3 days will reduce fly attraction.