

## Our Top 25 Everyday Items to Keep on Hand in the Barn!

Every equestrian knows that horses come with all sorts of essentials. Brushes, hoof picks, shovels and pitch forks come to mind. But aside from the horsey stuff there are some everyday items that come in quite useful in the barn. by Georgia Andrews

1. Duct Tape has many uses around the barn. Duct tape be used to patch blankets, repair fences and cover holes in a water hose in a pinch, we recently used it to make a nifty pool noodle halter for a horse who just had an eye removed. If you can find white duct tape even better! Use a strip with a note in permanent marker to label brushes, feed bins and barn tools.

2. A headlamp is one of the most unexpectedly useful tack trunk essentials. You can wear it while you lead a horse out to the field for night turnout (just make sure that you give your horse the chance to get used to it) or you can use it to load or unload your trailer in the early morning or after dark. You can also wear a headlamp while clipping your horse to improve visibility, or use it to see better if you're scrubbing a horse's white socks in a dimly lit wash stall. It will also come in handy for braiding in dark stalls on early show mornings. While you're at it, buy two headlamps so you can store one in your trailer. They're great to have on-hand in the event of a flat tire.

3. A bungee cord can be used to hang up a fan, hold a gate, you name it the uses are endless....

4. Permanent markers have a million obvious uses around equestrian facilities, but some of the most important include clearly labeling feed containers and supplements. Use tape to label (see number 1) so that the label can be easily changed.

5. There are plenty of uses for a measuring tape inside a barn. Not to mention a ruler. If you need to measure a hoof or a bit is much easier to accomplish with a ruler.

6. You can use Listerine for lots of barn chores. Many equestrians use it to treat surface bacteria or fungi like rain rot. You can use it to clean water buckets and prevent the growth of germs and bacteria—just make sure to rinse it extra thoroughly before refilling the bucket with fresh water. Oddly, it also shines up patent leather on a bridle or a pair of tall boots. You can also mix it with a little bit of baby oil to apply at the base of an itchy tail.

7. There are a lot of things to scrub around a barn, which means that a scrub brush has plenty of uses. We keep one with a long handle for buckets and others for bits and smaller items. Toothbrushes are super handy for cleaning tack.

8. To get a horse's socks extra white, you can use a dish-soap dispenser brush or wand filled with shampoo or bluing

9. Plastic containers with secure lids can store treats, medications and sponges away from pests like rodents and bugs. They're also convenient for storing small pieces of hardware, spare keepers or braiding bands.

10. Double-ended snaps or carabiners can be used on the ends of cross-ties, to hang buckets, fix gate latches, extend stall guards and more.



11. It's likely that you'll find VetWrap and wound-care products for horses around the barn, but it's less likely that a First-Aid Kit for humans will be readily available and fully stocked. That's why it's always a good idea to keep one on hand.

12. There's usually a pair of scissors lying somewhere around the barn, but they always seem to either disappear quickly or be so dull that they aren't functional. Keep a pair of large scissors on a long piece of hay twine with several knots!

13. Rubber gloves are helpful to have available in case the need arises for emergency wound treatment, but they are also great to put on when applying poultice or cleaning a horse's sheath.

14. Baby wipes are a staple. Use them to clean around your horse's eyes, ears, nose and under his tail. You can also use them to quickly wipe the dust off of boots or remove sweat from a bridle.

15. Vaseline or a similar petroleum jelly can be used to prevent chafing around the horse's mouth near the bit, as a salve for minor scrapes or to make it easier to insert a rectal thermometer.

16. WD-40 is great to have on hand to loosen up sticky hinges, gates and trailer hitches.

17. Use baby powder to brighten your horse's stockings and socks.

18. Keep Ziploc bags in a variety of sizes handy to pre-package supplements, medications or feed for an overnight trip.

19. A roll of ClingWrap is useful when creating a sweat-wrap for your horse to remove heat from a swollen leg.

20. Keep a mini tool kit on hand to address small but important chores. .

21. Baking soda can be used to scrub bits, buckets and more without the need for harsh chemicals or soaps.

22. Use diapers to hold poultices in hooves, then wrap and duct tape over them.

23. Desitin can help with Scratches or be applied to light-colored noses as a sunblock.

24. An electric hot water kettle is an easy way to heat water in a barn. You can use it to make a bran mash, clean wounds or tack or pour over frozen water buckets instead of chipping ice.

25. Keep epsom salt on hand to be prepared to soak hoof abscesses. You can also use it in your own bath water at home to soothe tired, aching muscles.

