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## Rubber stable matting

Posted by Katie - 2008/04/20 18:02

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Hi all

I'm thinking about buying some rubber matting for my stable and was wondering if anyone is already using it, peoples opinion on it, how much bedding people use etc. Any advice will be gratefully received.

Thanks

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by appynospots - 2008/04/20 19:15

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I invested in rubber matting last autumn. Love it, quick n easy mucking out, smaller muck heap. Just wet smelly stable rugs, if your not up to scratch with the bedding. Best I have found is Megazorb, wood pulp bedding, very light and absorbant, n fairly odour free, if you take all the wet out. I used 2 bags to set up and 1 bag every week to keep it nice. This is like Woody Pet, but with a lower carbon footprint as Megazorb is made in the UK and Woody pet is shipped from Canada!There are similar products on the market.

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by misty - 2008/04/20 20:44

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We have had rubber matting for about 10 years. It has never been taken up and was sealed with roofing sealant. I have one horse that doesn't wee in the stable (we have to let her out like a dog!) and one that lays in her wee. We find the best way was to experiment to find the least amount of bedding you need to use. We use chopped straw and sweep it up every day. If you are on comcrete you will feel the difference straight away.

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by Roland - 2008/04/20 21:16

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Yes rubber is the way to go.. make sure they are thick and heavy so they stay put, lay them with the pimples on top and cut them to fit carefully, sharp knife and use a water and washing up liquid mix , put a piece of wood under to cut i didn't use any sealant been down 3 years now I put in one big bale of shavings muck out daily and get wet out ( horses in at night) and a quick skip out last thing, I dont add anymore, just let shavings run low then shovel and brush the remaning out and start again, seems to still be a reasonable bed up to about 5 days. if your horses are clean ie they do it in the same place may last longer I have one thats clean and one thats mucky hope this helps....)

Post edited by: Roland, at: 2008/04/20 21:23

Post edited by: Roland, at: 2008/04/20 21:54

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by shaza - 2008/04/20 23:07

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Rubber mats with Aqua max bedding is the best ive found so far.The aqua max bedding goes a long way and i only get half a wheel barrow at most a day from my very manky mare.:lol:

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by BLACKJACK - 2008/04/21 10:06

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I have used both equimats and rubber crumb mats.

Equimats I found to be very good, offering a soft bed, they can be a bit slippery until your horse gets used to them.

Crumb mats on the other hand, absorb quite a bit of urine, are heavy to handle and hold the smell:pinch:

My friend used fieldguard mats which are also very good.

It's true what people say about messy rugs and in the end I used a turnout rug as it can be hosed off.

You have to use quite a bit of disinfectant and preparation of the stable floor to get the fall right, so that urine doesn't pool under the mats.

As for bedding I have used wood shavings and long straw.

My horse is no longer stabled but now has access to a field shelter( that he uses as a latrine:whistle: ).

As and when my youngster is stabled in the future I think I would be more inclined to use either chopped straw or hemp bedding to improve on the absorption.

I hope this helps you

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by elkay - 2008/04/21 11:40

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Just wondering how many of you have dispensed with banks when using rubber matting?

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by appynospots - 2008/04/21 11:46

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Have not used bankings for a long time. My stables are quite large 12 x 14. and I have not ever had a horse cast. But mine are never stabled for longer than 12 hours at a time, even in the worst of weather.

I guess though, anti cast strips fitted round the walls would be a good idea!

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by horsesfirst - 2008/04/21 11:51

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I used to have the crumb style mats too. Never again, they smelt, were heavy and really hard to move or clean. Unless you have a more or less standard bed on top, rugs do get filthy and so does any exposed bit of horse. So while mucking out on a day to day basis was quicker, we spent several times as long cleaning the mats, horses and rugs at the weekends. It ended up being very expensive.

I have seen the solid rubber mats in use. These are not so heavy or smelly, but the horses and rugs still get filthy and you need more bed on top to make it inviting to lie down on. I have also seen in some circumstances, bedding build up under the mats so they get lumpy etc. This means regular lifting - so again it's not really labour saving.

For many years I have kept my horses on Aubiose. I only use half a bale per horse per week and with my clean girly not even that. There is no smell, the bed is deep, the horses and rugs clean and it only takes 10 mins to skip them out in the morning. It depends how wet your horse is, but the Aubiose clumps a bit like cat litter, so it is easy to remove if you want to - but it doesn't have to be done daily or even weekly. I do mine about once a month, less on a good well draining concrete floor.

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by misty - 2008/04/21 13:00

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Our biggest horse was 16.2hh in a 12 x 12 and never had banks. We only use a minimum amount of bedding that is mostly

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swept up the next day and fresh put down. All the horses which have used our stables have laid down. The rubber is much more comfortable than the hard ground!

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by Katie - 2008/04/23 11:36

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Thanks for all your help, just trying to find the best price. Where have you all bought your rubber matting from?

Thanks

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## Re:Rubber stable matting

Posted by quarterhorsemad - 2008/04/23 16:27

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Katie where are you in the UK? I ask cos I have 6 x 6' x 4' stable mats for sale (used 2 months only) I used them with quite a thick bed on top and banks. Have sold the horse so mats are to go too. £20 each but collect from Knutsford, Cheshire. They are good quality with the nobbles on the top and drainage underneath, quite thick and very heavy. Only one has a slight split on an outer edge. Also have 2 stable gateway mats (have holes in for grass to grow through) that are 5' x 3' each at £15 each (unused)Cheers Marion 01565 634440

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