



Tidy Barn Tips

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Our barn is a small barn, so for me everything has its place and should always be put back there. If there is no right place for all your things, it can start to look a bit messy. Here are a few simple suggestions to keep things tidy in your tack room.

Have a container, cart, or shelf for the brushes and bottles that you use for grooming on a daily basis. It's best not to leave them out in the open. Brushes will of course carry dirt with them, and they will leave the dirt behind where ever you stash them. Whatever you do use for grooming supply storage, make sure you can easily clean both the container and the brushes themselves once a week.

Keep as much off the floor as possible. This means you should use hooks. I have hooks everywhere! Hooks for the blankets you take off the horses to get them ready, hooks for bridles, halters, and shanks, and hooks for coats. The more items you can keep off the floor, the cleaner those items will stay and the cleaner your floor will be.

Good brooms are a must. I keep a broom in every location one could want to use a broom: one in each barn, another in the wash rack, and one in the tack room. This way it is always easy to quickly grab a broom and sweep up whenever there is even just a small mess in between horses.

Invest in small Rubbermaid bins. I keep as much as possible in small containers. This will help keep your small items organized and help to avoid having a junk drawer that nobody goes to because it's too overwhelming. Have a bin for boots, one for turnout boots, one for bandages, one for braiding bands and other small grooming items.

Learn to fold your blankets neatly and make sure everyone in your barn does. This makes a huge change to the look of your barn aisle, and if that's the only thing you change it will make the biggest difference. Try not to have too many blankets on a door, but the blankets that must be there should be folded the same way and as flat against the door as possible.

Mostly it's important to take pride in your barn and tack room. It should look presentable at all times – you never know when a potential client or customer will walk through the door, and their first impression of your barn will reflect on the care and attention that you place on your horses.