

Winter Checklist for Equine Owners

Around the yard		
Check buildings/shelters	Check for leaks or damage that could be made worse by wet or windy weather.	
Gutters	Ensure gutters are clear of fallen leaves and other debris to avoid blocking/overflowing.	
Pipes	Use lagging wherever possible to avoid pipes freezing.	
Lighting	Test all lighting, and replace any bulbs before the evenings draw in.	
Grazing areas		
Turnout	Save some grazing for Winter so your horse can still have as much turnout as possible.	
Field boundaries/divisions	Check fencing and hedging is secure.	
Gateways	Ensure all gates open and close freely and latch properly. Consider using field matting or straw in gateways where mud becomes a problem.	
Paddocks	Decide which areas of grazing will be more suitable for Winter use – consider proximity to yard areas, drainage, ease of access for poo-picking.	
Water supply	Keep a regular check on drinking areas such as troughs or streams, is access safe or has it become too muddy/slippery?	
Horses		
Feeding plan	Regularly assess your horse's feeding plan over Winter as grazing quality and workload change.	
Environmental enrichment	Provide some enrichment while your horse is indoors, plan for something different each day.	
Grooming	Clean grooming kits and other equipment ready to be used.	
Rugs	Ensure any rugs are cleaned, reproofed and ready for use including a spare turnout.	
Clipping	Service clippers and sharpen blades ready for Winter if your horse is in work and may need clipping.	
Routine and safety		
Save time in dark evenings	Make a list of jobs that could be done on the weekend to save additional time spent on dark evenings	
Head torch	Invest in a head torch, especially if lighting is limited.	
Hi Viz	Use high visibility clothing for both horse and rider when out and about.	
Money saving	Tying in bookings/routine visits from your vet, farrier, saddle fitter etc with friends can save costs	
Buddy up	Make a plan for your horse's care if you are unable to get to where he is kept (use our handy Equine Care plan download)	
Stock up on supplies	Buy enough feed, bedding, forage to last a while to save time going to the feed store as often	