

# OBHPC Training - Spring Cleaning

## **STABLES**

If you have empty boxes,

1. Remove all loose fittings (water buckets, mangers, hay nets, etc.)
2. DISINFECT walls and floors with a solution of Jeyes fluid
3. Clean cobwebs away
4. CREOSOTE wooden parts, especially doors and door frames. Creosote is better than woodstain, as it kills bacteria and fungi, especially ringworm
5. Wash any windows
6. Re-new any baler twine on tying up rings
7. Clear any internal drains and gullies
8. Clean out guttering
9. Leave open to air

## **YARDS**

Clear and sweep thoroughly. Clear drains and gullies. Clean out guttering. Re-new any baler twine on tying up rings. Check and clean yard lights. Creosote external woodwork.

## **GROOMING KITS**

Fill a large, clean bucket with hot water (not boiling, but hot enough that you can just bear your hand in it) and throw in a generous amount of soda crystals. The soda crystals are very old fashioned but rather magical - they dissolve grease and dirt with no effort at all.

1. Brushes, hoof picks, sweat scrapers, mane combs, and curry combs can be submerged in the bucket of soda crystals for a few minutes. Stir round, remove and rinse in clean water. If you have a plastic grooming box, use the soda crystal solution to clean that, too.
2. Cactus cloth - give it a good shake
3. Stable rubber - wash with non-bio laundry detergent

Leave everything to dry in the sunshine. Brushes should be stood on their bristles, not left on their backs

## **FEED ROOM**

Empty out, and sweep clean. Check sell-by-dates and discard out-of-date feed and supplements. If you keep your feed in metal dustbins, these should be cleaned out as before being replenished. Clean all buckets/bowls/stirring implements/scoops. Leave the door open to let everything air

## **TACK ROOM**

Empty out, and sweep clean, and leave to air before replacing everything.

1. Clean all tack and check for worn stitching, broken or missing keepers and runners, cracked leather, stretched holes. Make a list of things that need repair.

2. Check all tack that has been stored un-used for a while. Clean and cover loosely with a cotton cloth (old tea towels are perfect) to keep the dust off
3. Numnahs and bandages: clean if necessary (using non-bio laundry powder), and air in the sunshine before folding/rolling up
4. Rugs: shake out, throw over a gate or fence and brush with a stiff brush (inside and out). In due course, send the heavy winter turnouts away to be cleaned, repaired and re-proofed
5. FIRST AID BOX: check contents are complete and replace things that are out-of-date
6. Check fire extinguishers. These and electrical equipment (barley boilers, rug driers, washing machines) may need servicing or checking for rodent damage

### **FIELD TROUGHS**

Clean out and check. Did you know that large field troughs can be kept free of algae by having a few goldfish in them. The horses and ponies won't mind.

### **HAY AND STRAW STORES**

Keep these tidy and swept. As supplies reduce going into the Spring/Summer, lift pallets and sweep out.