

Bathing horses and ponies



Gather all your equipment together

The last thing you want to do is end up trailing soap suds and water through the tack room trying to dig out the shampoo whilst your wet horse waits on the yard!



Tie your horse/pony in a safe area

Some ponies LOVE being bathed others can be quite fidgety, make sure they are tied in a safe area using a quick-release knot and a piece of twine or something similar that can break if your horse panics for any reason.



Start wetting your horse all over

Start at the bottom of the legs and work upwards, this way your pony is likely to get used to the hose before you get water anywhere near their head and neck!



Shampoo the horse's coat

Make sure that the shampoo you use is safe for use on animals and horses and get scrubbing all over. Make sure that you're always stood safely to the side when scrubbing the stains on your pony's legs.



Rub shampoo into the mane and tail thoroughly

Once your pony is used to the shampoo being rubbed into his coat it's time to get it into the mane and tail. Be careful around your horse's ears with the shampoo and water and make sure you're stood safely to the side when you wash their tail!



Sponge the horse's head and face

Before the shampoo is rinsed off, sponge over your pony's head – making sure to use separate sponges for the nose and eye areas. Be careful and patient with your pony and try to keep them calm.



Rinse the coat, mane and tail thoroughly

Make sure that all of the shampoo is rinsed out of the coat properly. Leaving shampoo in can damage the coat, attract flies and make your horse sticky. Be careful when rinsing the mane and tail, making sure not to panic your pony.



Towel dry the head and legs

Carefully remove any excess water from the pony's face and legs with a towel. The skin is more sensitive over the bony areas in the legs and face so a sweat scraper shouldn't be used for this.



Remove excess water using a sweat scraper

Excess water from the body can be scraped off using a sweat scraper (make sure it's clean so you don't ruin your hard work!). If you find soap coming off the coat when using the sweat scraper just repeat the rinsing again.



Comb through the mane and tail

Before the mane dries comb it all over one side and remove any knots. If it is cold you may want to put a wicking rug on your pony whilst he dries, if not he can be left naked. Whilst drying leave them in a warm place (a solarium would be perfect, but keep an eye on them).