

# A HORSE OWNER'S FEED ROOM GUIDE

From rodent proofing your bins, to storing your feed correctly and organising your utensils, it's essential to keep your feed room in order.

## Does your feed room look like this?



**1** Don't bulk buy if you can't use it all before the quality deteriorates.

**2** Don't buy out of date feed or supplements even if they're discounted.

**3** Store feed and supplements in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight.

**4** Keep feed off the ground and away from walls, remove shrink wrap from pallets - this allows air to circulate and reduces condensation.

**5** Ideally store your feed in drums or bins with secure lids ensuring old stock is used up before new is added to the bin.

**6** Make sure containers are secured to keep damp out and reduce risk of contamination.

**7** Ensure product is labelled if removed from original container - highlight if products need to be soaked before feeding to reduce the risk of them being misused.

**8** Keep a record of batch numbers especially if you remove products from their original packaging - take a photo of the bag or tub label and keep it on your phone.

**9** Keeping small samples from each batch is also good practice from a prohibited substance/NOPS perspective.

**10** Don't store any human food or drinks (or allow eating or drinking) in your feed room - tea, coffee, biscuits and chocolate contain NOPS.

**11** Don't store any herbal remedies or medications - intended for either humans or animals - in your feed room. If they are accidentally dropped into a feed bucket they could result in a positive prohibited substance test.

**19** Horse feed should be clearly separated from that for any other species. Feeding products not intended for use in a particular species can cause serious issues, for example, sheep that are fed horse feed are at risk of copper toxicity.

**18** Keeping utensils specific to each horse reduces the change of spreading disease and contamination with medications.

**17** Keep buckets and utensils clean.

**16** Ensure your feed room has an effective door - greedy ponies are very adept at getting in and eating things they shouldn't!

**15** Clean up spills, dust ledges and remove cobwebs - all of these can harbour pests and disease.

**14** Cover glass light bulbs and keep feed away from windows.

**13** Keep feeding charts current and dated so everyone knows they are up to date.

**12** Use a bucket cover if preparing feeds in advance. Put supplements and any medication in a zip-top plastic bag labelled with your horse's name so it is protected - medicines can lose their efficacy if exposed to light and moisture for too long.