

Tack CLEANING

(USPC D Manual 2nd Ed., pg 271)

Name: Teacher Copy

Date: _____

They must know these 3 reasons. Will be asked during rating.

Why Clean Your Tack?

- 1) Tack is expensive. If you properly care for your tack it will **last longer**.
- 2) You can check for **unsafe tack**. Tack must be in good, safe condition or it may break while you are riding.
- 3) Worn, cracked, or dirty tack can cause **SORES** on your pony. .



2 Steps for EVERYDAY Tack CLEANING:

Prepare / Clean



4 Steps to DEEP Tack CLEANING:

Prepare / Clean / Condition / Protect

The TWO Steps for *Everyday*:

1) **PREPARE**

2) **CLEANING**

PREPARE <i>Get your tack ready to clean</i>	CLEANING <i>Getting rid of dirt and grime</i>
<p><u>Bridle:</u> Take off Bit</p> <p><u>Saddle:</u> Remove Girth & Stirrup Leathers</p>	<p><u>Supplies:</u> Damp rag/sponge or leather wipes</p> <p><u>Bridle:</u> Wipe down all pieces Wipe Bit clean</p> <p><u>Saddle:</u> Wipe all sections & girth & leathers. Wipe stirrups clean</p>

USPC Rating Requirements: D1-• Know two reasons for cleaning tack. // D2-• List three examples of unsafe equipment.

The FOUR Steps for Every Month

1) Preparing

2) Cleaning

3) Conditioning

4) Protecting

1) PREPARE

Get your tack ready to clean

Bridle: Take apart, undo all buckles

Saddle: Strip all removable pieces
Remove pads from stirrups

2) CLEANING

Getting rid of dirt and grime

Supplies: (2) Bowls of warm soapy water & sponge or rags, toothpicks, toothbrush, scrunchie pad

Bridle & Saddle:

- >Soak Bit & Irons in bowl of soapy water
- >Rag/sponge in water & wring till almost dry*
- >Wipe down all parts, top & underneath
- >Scrape off 'jockeys' & Clean around all buckles
- >Use toothbrush to get imbedded dirt, & toothpicks to clean stitching
- >Use scrunchie pad to clean Bit and Irons

Still dirty? Repeat rub down with leather cleaner

**if water stays on leather, it's too wet*

3) CONDITIONING

Restoring Dry or Stiff Leather to Original

Supplies: Rags, Paintbrush, Oil (neatsfoot oil, vegetable oil, Lexol conditioner, etc)

Bridle & Saddle:

- >Apply Oil to the **UNDERSIDE** of the leather
- >Paint a thin coat
(1"-2" paintbrush works well)
- >Bend leather back and forth, roll it and work it gently between your hands.
- >Can let it soak for a while
- >Wipe away excess with a rag
- >Do not get oil on the suede or cloth parts of your saddle

4) PROTECTING

Sealing in the oils by closing the pores of the leather

Supplies: Rag/sponge, Glycerin Soap

Bridle & Saddle:

- >Done last, AFTER cleaning.
- >Use Glycerin saddle soap to seal the leather pores, nourishing and protecting it.
- >Use damp sponge (not wet). Sponge should be sticky and soapy, NOT wet or lathery.
- >Rub soap on both sides of leather. Rub the soap into the leather.
- >Should NOT be any lather
- >If you used just the right amount of soap, should be able to see a fingerprint after rubbing the soap in.
- >Wipe away excess soap.

List the TWO steps for EVERYDAY tack cleaning:

1 PREPARE

2 CLEANING

Have student
write the steps,
then call on them
to explain what is
done in that step.

List the FOUR steps for MONTHLY tack cleaning:

1 PREPARE

2 CLEANING

3 CONDITIONING

4 PROTECTING

No questions here, just have each of them read the list aloud, taking turns.

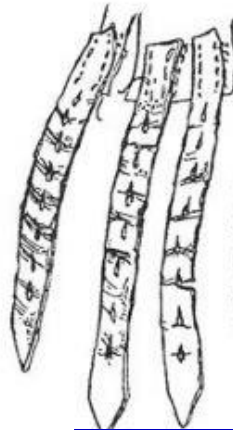
Unsafe Tack Checklist

1. Broken or cracked saddle tree
2. Cracked or stretched out holes in leather straps
3. Loose , broken, or missing stitching
4. Leather showing cracks or dry rot
5. Stirrup bars rusting or stuck in closed position
6. Bits with rust or rough spots
7. Girths with worn-out elastic
8. Broken or missing runners or keepers
9. Bent or broken buckles
10. Stirrup pads worn smooth

Unsafe Tack



Loose Stitching



Cracked Billets

Unsafe billets: stretched-out holes, cracks, dry rot, stitching coming loose



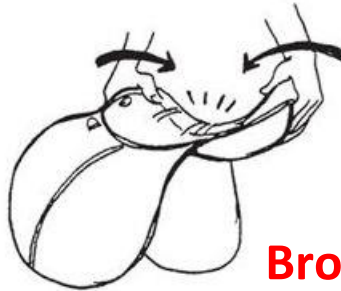
Stretched Out Girth



Cracked & dry Leather



Dry, cracked, and weakened leather, showing dry rot

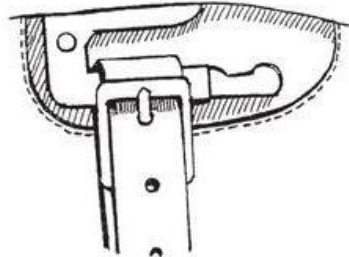


Saddle seat should not move or wrinkle when pressed end to end.

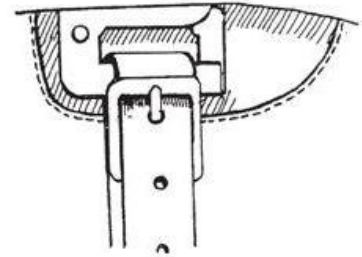


There should be no movement in the gullet when you try to squeeze and pull side to side.

Broken Tree



SAFE Stirrup bar open



DANGER! Stirrup bar closed

Closed Stirrup Bar



Worn/missing stirrup pads



Rusted or Broken Hardware

