

You'll Pay for Comfort In Stall Mats

*ProMat Comfort Stall is the cat's meow in comfort, and
ProtectorLok is the stall mats Best Buy*

Stall mats appeal to many stable owners as both comfortable flooring and, as bedding costs continue to rise, a money saver. In general, stall mats cut down your floors from damage, and minimize bedding use. We tried six non-draining stall mats and three draining stall mats to find what advantages the individual styles and brands may bring to help you narrow down your stall-mat choices.

After living with these mats, we determined some key things you should consider when making the choice for your barn:

-What is your existing floor type or base surface?

-Is your main goal to decrease the amount of bedding needed or to provide a comfortable floor?

-What are the stall habits of the horses in the barn?

-Who will install the mats?

-How much money do you want to spend?

When determining your budget, you need to include not only the cost of the mats you choose but how much material you need to level your stall floors and any shipping costs.

DRAINING VS. NON-DRAINING

The traditional rubber stall mat you envision when someone mentions mats is likely a non-draining mat. This means moisture from urine and manure will not drain through the surface. Instead, the bedding will have to absorb it. You'll need more bedding to absorb urine, but you'll have less urine under the mat and less odor.

*“Summit Flexible’s
ProtectorLok mats were
easy to install and didn’t
shift or get shavings
underneath them.”*

With a draining stall mat, some moisture is absorbed by the bedding, but much of it seeps through the mat onto the floor surface below it. If you have a draining floor, the moisture should be absorbed by the floor, minimizing the problems of urine pooling and odor. If you have a non-draining floor like cement, the moisture will drain through the mat and pool below it, making it difficult to remove, unless that floor is sloped to a drain.

BOTTOM LINE

Once you've decided you can afford to add stall mats to your barn, spend some time considering your motivation for the decision and then research your options to help ensure your purchase will meet your expectations and complement your existing surface. Be sure the mat will work with your barn's flooring.

Most manufacturers have detailed web sites and toll-free numbers that offer helpful information. In making your decision, be sure to add in shipping costs, which can be considerable depending upon where the mat is shipped from in relation to where it is going.

Turtle Plastics, ProMat, Stall Skins and Equistall caught our attention as innovative designs and concepts in flooring systems that work well.

Stall Skins stall liners aren't as thick as other mats, but they're definitely value-priced and easily earned the best-draining surface nod in our trial. However, for overall ease and speed on stall cleaning, we liked Turtle Plastics best.

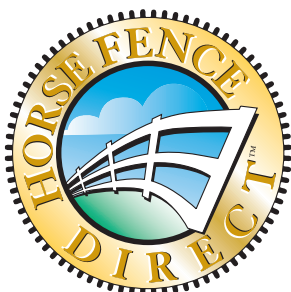
For comfort, ProMat is the most comfortable flooring system we think you can put in your barn. While the other rubber mats protect your horse's joints from stress and fatigue associated with standing on a hard surface, we didn't find they create the same forgiving and springy surface that this system does.

Even one of our trial horses noticed a difference. Admittedly not the bravest in the lot, this horse took about 15 minutes not to be "worried" about the footing in his stall. The mat was decidedly not slippery, but we found it interesting the horse knew he was on a different surface despite being covered with shavings.

If you're looking for traditional rubber mats, any of the ones we tried will do. We had no problems with installation or use, and we would recommend you let price, availability and shipping costs be your guide. However, we did like the comparatively easy installation on Summit Flexible Products ProtectorLok mats, and the interlocking feature is excellent, making them our top choice in mats and **Best Buy**.

Summit is proud to be chosen "Best Buy" according to the discriminating testers of Horse Journal who discovered what over three-fourths of America's veterinary teaching hospitals, the U.S. Equestrian Team, and competitors in the Olympic Games already know. There is a difference in mats. Summit's mats are made expressly for horses. They are not conveyor belting or roofing mats or industrial matting often sold as horse mats.

And only Summit has every thing you need for barn and trailer flooring— mats, pavers, tiles, arena footing and Stall Skins that Horse Journal says "...Stall Skins stall liners aren't as thick as other mats, but they're definitely value-priced and easily earned the best-draining-surface nod in our trial."



Call to place your order or to request more information:

1-800-478-0099

www.horsefencedirect.com

