

One thing that makes Trinity Stables Unique and environmentally friendly is the type of bedding we use in our horse's stalls. This article explains the many reasons why we chose to use this natural, horse friendly stall bedding.....

PEA GRAVEL is an incredible material to use as stall bedding and in your turn out areas.



Right now you are probably asking yourself WHY use Pea Gravel in my barn. Well, simply put, it is healthy for our horses in more ways than one, it's cost effective, and works wonders.

What is Pea Gravel?

Pea gravel is a small rounded shaped smooth stone that is approximately 3/8" in size. It is a wonderful conditioning aid for horses' feet. It stimulates the frog (increasing blood circulation by 90% - study by Robert M. Bowker, VMD, PhD, Michigan State University Equine Foot Laboratory), massages and toughens the sole, helps keep the hoof wall short on barefoot horses and eliminates thrush problems.

It must feel good too because if you only have a small area of pea gravel, horses will competed over who gets to stand in it – it's like getting a foot massage. Horses also love to bed down on the pea gravel as it provides a soft dry place to curl up or stretch out and the stones shift to conform to the horse's body.

The theory of using pea gravel in horse stalls and turnouts is to give hooves more varied and rougher footing and toughen up their feet naturally, approaching the conditions which keep wild horse's hooves strong, tough and self-maintaining. Pea gravel is being praised by farriers and barefoot trimming practitioners nationwide.

Not only is using pea gravel a way to maintain a healthy hoof, either with or without shoes, but it also aides in the transition from shoes to barefoot. In addition to being 100% natural and healthy for our equine friends, pea gravel is also an incredible way to keep a clean and odor free barn. It provides excellent drainage, will completely eliminate wet urine spots, thrush will be a thing of the past and it is dust free which is healthy for both humans and horses with allergies. Pea gravel also makes our task of cleaning stalls much easier as it is similar to cleaning a big kitty litter box. The pea gravel falls right through the manure fork.

I, myself, (*owner of AZ Fencing and Steel*) am a huge fan of pea gravel. After researching this for many, many, many hours I'm completely convinced that this is, by far, the best stall and turn-out product for our Southwestern region. Our veterinarian, Dr. Laura Harris has no health concerns in regards to us using this product. She feels it is a safe and positive alternative to traditional bedding. She also thinks it will be better for our horse's respiratory systems since there is so much less dust with pea gravel vs. shavings.

How deep should the pea gravel be?

To be effective as horse bedding you need a 3" - 6" layer of pea gravel. The deeper the material the more the stones are able to "do their job" and slightly shift while the horse is standing, walking and bedding down.

Pea Gravel is cost effective!

Pea gravel is much more cost effective than shavings or any other form of stall bedding due to the simple fact that they only need to be put down once. Shavings are expensive, have a way of "going away" and need to be replaced often. Pea gravel will last you for years and years to come without any additional cost.

Here is a testimony from another local ranch that uses pea gravel:

“Our 16x16 stalls are bedded with an innovative natural product, pea gravel, which we find superior with many benefits: Horses always have clean, polished hooves - no manure and urine-soaked shavings packed in feet to cause thrush. The small, smooth stones massage the horse's frogs and soles to increase blood flow for healthier hooves. Pea gravel is not absorbent - no stinky, decomposing shavings to attract bacteria. And manure is easy to pick from the pea gravel for cleaner stalls. As an Arizona special bonus, we can hose down the stalls every day in the dry summer to help moisturize hooves and keep the barn cool - not an option with absorbent bedding!”